MAGGIE Q

Dear Ms. Wu,

Thank you very much for eliminating animal testing—including drowning and electric-shock tests—from the draft regulation for food companies seeking to obtain the anti-fatigue health claim for marketing their products.

However, I was disturbed to learn from my friends at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) that the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) has proposed a new draft regulation titled "Method for Efficacy Assessment of Health Food for Joint Protection," which recommends cruel experiments on animals. I'd like to encourage you to eliminate animal tests from this regulation, too.

If this draft regulation is enacted as is, experimenters will induce painful osteoarthritis in young, sensitive rats either by injecting cartilage-dissolving enzymes into their joints or by severing their joint tissue. Disturbingly, the animals won't receive any pain medication simply so that experimenters can observe and measure the pain caused by osteoarthritis. In the draft regulation, the TFDA also recommends safe and effective human tests, which means the animal tests are unnecessary. Furthermore, I understand that health-food products in the U.S., Canada, and the European Union require human test data, because these foods are intended for humans, not for other animals.

In 2013, I wrote to the Council of Agriculture of Taiwan in opposition to the use of beagles for inhumane rabies-related testing, which was thankfully stopped. However, I'm disheartened to learn that Taiwan has yet again proposed deadly tests on animals, this time for the frivolous purpose of establishing health claims to market food products.

Taiwan has shown great leadership before, in my dealings with the country in the fight for justice. It would be incredible to do it once again and show the kind of progressive foresight and judgement you are now known for. Please ensure that Taiwan stands with the international community in rejecting these crude and absurd experiments on animals. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Maggie Q