

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

September 10, 2025

J. Larry Jameson, M.D., Ph.D.  
President  
University of Pennsylvania

Via e-mail: [president@upenn.edu](mailto:president@upenn.edu)

Dear President Jameson:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 10 million members and supporters globally, over 248,000 of whom live in Pennsylvania. The University of Pennsylvania has maintained a Public Health Service-approved Animal Welfare Assurance for decades. This assurance requires adherence to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, including implementing the 3Rs principle: replacing animal use whenever possible, reducing the number of animals used, and refining procedures to minimize suffering.

Despite this, the university continues to use thousands of animals in its laboratories. A recent inventory reported that Penn used more than 47,800 mice, 1,100 rats, and 350,000 fishes in experiments. A 2024 federal report also documented the school's use of 359 dogs, 104 cats, 258 monkeys, 621 pigs, 276 guinea pigs, 46 rabbits, 64 sheep, and 403 other Animal Welfare Act (AWA)-covered species in its laboratories. These figures directly contradict the university's assurance to the federal government that it would reduce animal use, exposing a troubling disregard for its stated commitment to adopting non-animal replacements and reducing reliance on animal experimentation.

**What exactly is Penn's plan to implement the 3Rs? You have used and killed animals for years with apparently no end in sight, despite your claim to abide by the best practices. We believe the public has the right to know if the university's pledge has been truthful.**

#### **Tax dollars wasted on cruel and ineffective research**

In 2024, Penn received over \$691 million in taxpayer funding from the National Institutes of Health—approximately half of which was directed toward experiments on animals. These included highly invasive procedures in which [experimenters cut open pigs' skulls](#) and inflicted traumatic brain injuries using a "spring-loaded impactor" that drove a rod into the exposed brain. They then injected the pigs with drugs, drew blood repeatedly, inserted spinal needles to collect fluid, and killed them all after two weeks. In another laboratory, experimenters injected young monkeys and piglets with a protein over 10 minutes, causing severe toxicity.

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- PETA Switzerland
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- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

The monkeys showed signs of shock—hemorrhaging, trouble breathing, dilated pupils, liver failure, hypothermia, pale mucous membranes, and fluid in the abdomen. The piglets lost control of their muscles, severely impairing their ability to walk. All the animals were ultimately killed.

You must be aware that numerous studies dating back more than two decades reveal the failure of animal experiments to lead to cures and treatments for human beings. Conferences, papers, and all manner of information sources show the availability of countless superior, non-animal research methods that produce far more reliable and species-relevant results for human health than experiments on animals. PETA scientists' [Research Modernization Now](#) provides a detailed strategy for replacing experiments on animals with humane and human-relevant methods. Have you read it, and what is your plan to implement it or alternative solutions to this burgeoning use of animals on your campus?

**Failure to comply with federal animal welfare regulations and guidelines**

Penn has repeatedly failed to comply with minimum federal animal welfare regulations and guidelines, as evidenced by multiple violations documented in federal reports. In recent years, numerous instances have occurred in which animals were deprived of water due to staff negligence. In one case, 13 mice died after being housed on a rack missing water valves—mirroring an earlier incident in which over 20 mice died after a disconnected hose left them without water. Experimenters have also repeatedly failed to follow euthanasia protocols. Mice were left in staging areas or thrown into waste bins before being killed—some were found still alive. These chronic failures to meet even the most basic animal welfare standards demonstrate a blatant disregard for both the law and the will of the American public.

Penn's failure to adhere to the 3Rs principles undermines public trust. We ask you to address this matter of public interest without delay. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Alka Chandna, Ph.D.  
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