

Competitive Benchmarking in Animal Testing

WHEREAS

Our Company has funded experiments in which rats were fed junk foods, including chips, crackers, and candies, and mice were forced to eat human feces, glass beads, and high-fat diets.¹ These tests are unrelated to product safety or human health, do not establish new information, and caused significant suffering and death to animals.

Our Company's animal testing policy states, "We ... will only engage in Animal Testing ... when it is needed to advance fundamental knowledge in nutritional science."² This exception allows the continuation of experiments on animals that are not required by law and are unrelated to the safety or regulatory approval of our products. Our Company's policy differs from the approaches of many of its peers—including Barilla, Ferrero, Strauss Group, and others—which prohibit all animal testing unless explicitly mandated by regulatory authorities.³

Scientists acknowledge that mice and other animals differ greatly from humans in physiology, metabolism, digestion, and disease development, making nutritional experiments on other animals scientifically irrelevant to humans.⁴ Such tests have been abandoned by other food companies, including the aforementioned ones, Unilever, and more, because modern and more cost-effective animal-free research methods are readily available and routinely used, including advanced computer modeling, human cell-based assays, and other human-relevant approaches.

More than 150,000 concerned consumers have already written to our Company to urge it to end its support of animal testing.⁵ However, during the last general meeting, our Company purposely misled shareholders by stating that it does not test its products on animals, while ignoring the fact that its policy allows animal testing that is not required by law. We are submitting this shareholder resolution to ensure that investors and the public have access to clear, factual information about the extent of animal use in Company-endorsed research.

Transparency regarding animal experimentation would align with our Company's "Snacking Made Right" commitments, mitigate reputational risks, and demonstrate real accountability to shareholders and consumers. Reporting would also encourage progress toward the adoption of today's innovative, animal-free research methods that reflect human biology and advance our Company's stated environmental, social, and governance goals.

To avoid future incidents that may harm our Company's reputation and to promote the most advanced research available, we urge shareholders to vote in favor of this most reasonable resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED

To help improve our Company's public standing when benchmarked against its peers, promote transparency, and minimize the suffering of animals in experiments, we urge our Company to issue an annual report to shareholders disclosing the number and species of animals used and/or destroyed in testing conducted, funded, and/or commissioned by our Company, specifically when such tests are not required by law.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

In preparing this resolution, the proponent relied on the following sources:

1. <https://www.peta.org/action/references/>
2. <https://www.mondelezinternational.com/snacking-made-right/esg-topics/animal-testing/>
3. <https://eatwithoutexperiments.peta.org/>
4. <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Critiques-of-Animal-Testing-for-Human-Health-Claims.pdf>
5. <https://support.peta.org/page/75390/action/1>; <https://secure.petaindia.com/page/163383/action/1>;
<https://secure.peta.org.uk/page/161449/action/1>; <https://secure.petafrance.com/page/162196/action/1>;
<https://secure.peta.nl/page/165938/action/1>; <https://secure.peta.org.au/page/161472/action/1>;
<https://www.peta.de/aktiv/mondelez-tierversuche/>; <https://support.petalatino.com/page/76025/action/1>;
<https://action.peta2.com/page/75966/action/1>