



April 16, 2026

Albert Bourla  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pfizer Inc.

Via e-mail: [albert.bourla@pfizer.com](mailto:albert.bourla@pfizer.com)

Dear Mr. Bourla:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which has more than 10.4 million members and supporters worldwide, regarding Pfizer's past and/or present relationship with the New Iberia Research Center (NIRC) at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Newly obtained internal documents, together with whistleblower video footage and federal inspection findings, raise serious concerns about animal care failures at NIRC and the scientific reliability of research involving animals supplied by this facility.

### **Internal Records Show Pfizer's Acceptance of Clinically Compromised Animals**

Documents recently obtained through a public records request show that concerns about NIRC extend beyond deficient housing and husbandry and into the research supply chain itself. Internal communications among NIRC, Charles River Laboratories (CRL), and Pfizer indicate that Pfizer personnel were directly involved in determining which animals would be considered acceptable for shipment to CRL for study assignment. These records show that animals with documented clinical concerns—including injuries, compromised body condition, hair loss, recent gastrointestinal illness, and healed traumatic injuries—were nevertheless approved for shipment for studies conducted on Pfizer's behalf. These records show that this was not incidental or removed from view: animals with known health concerns were reviewed and approved for use.

### **Implications for Research Integrity and Data Reliability**

Acceptance of animals with documented clinical abnormalities, particularly from a facility with a history of veterinary and environmental failures, raises concerns beyond animal welfare alone. Pre-existing disease and chronic stress are well-recognized sources of biological variability that can confound preclinical research outcomes and complicate the interpretation of results, raising serious questions about the reliability of research conducted using animals supplied by NIRC.

### **Conditions Documented in Recent Video Footage**

PETA received video [footage](#) filmed earlier this year from insiders at NIRC. Although recorded in low light, the footage shows room after room of monkeys, confined alone in steel cages barely larger than their bodies, with waste pans beneath the cages containing accumulated feces and uneaten food. The video also documents dilapidated conditions, including cage pans propped up with overturned buckets, pooled liquid covering much of the floor in one room, peeling floor paint, and multiple monkeys exhibiting hair loss on their arms and legs. Cages are largely barren, with little more than single strands of plastic beads hung outside the enclosure and, occasionally, a worn Kong toy inside. Research involving primates assumes that animals are clinically healthy, physiologically stable, and maintained under controlled environmental conditions. The conditions documented in this footage, including accumulated waste, inadequate enrichment, and apparently prolonged isolation, are

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inconsistent with those assumptions and with the environmental management and husbandry controls expected in facilities conducting regulated research.

### **Federal Inspection Findings and Veterinary Oversight Failures**

The conditions shown in the footage are consistent with a broader pattern of operational failures at NIRC documented in federal inspection reports over multiple years. These records describe repeated deficiencies in environmental control, veterinary oversight, housing systems, and internal compliance processes. In a U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) [inspection report](#) dated June 10, 2025, NIRC received a critical violation after 19 rhesus macaques died between January 21 and January 23, 2025, during a period when outdoor temperatures fell as low as 2°F. The USDA determined that the monkeys were not acclimated to such temperatures and that outdoor housing did not provide adequate shelter from wind and cold. The USDA further reported that subsequent necropsies revealed that many of the monkeys who died had underlying medical conditions. These animals were not experimental subjects but rather part of the general colony, animals who should have been medically screened, closely monitored, and protected from environmental exposure risks. This finding raises a fundamental concern: either NIRC failed to detect widespread medical vulnerability within its colony, or it exposed medically vulnerable animals to freezing conditions despite those risks. Either scenario reflects a breakdown in veterinary oversight incompatible with the standards expected of a federally regulated research facility. Over the past decade, USDA enforcement actions have included civil penalties totaling over \$158,000 related to unsafe housing conditions, containment failures, delayed detection of animal deaths, and breakdowns in internal oversight mechanisms.

### **Conclusion**

The internal records, whistleblower footage, and federal inspection findings described above collectively indicate that deficiencies at NIRC are systemic rather than isolated, with direct implications for both animal welfare and the scientific validity of research conducted using animals from this facility. Of particular concern is the documented acceptance of clinically compromised animals for studies conducted on Pfizer's behalf, coupled with longstanding failures in veterinary oversight and environmental control at NIRC.

In light of these findings, we urge Pfizer to conduct a thorough review of any current or prior research involving NIRC or animals supplied by this facility, including an assessment of whether animal health and housing conditions may have compromised data integrity.

Sincerely,



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