



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

June 11, 2026

Dennis Worsham
Secretary, Washington State Department of Health
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Beth Lipton, DVM, MPH
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Dear Secretary Worsham, Dr. Itle and Dr. Lipton,

Because the Washington State Board of Health recently declined to require reporting of human-notifiable pathogens detected in laboratory primates, understanding whether any reporting occurred under existing authorities is a matter of significant public interest.

On September 27, 2023, University of Washington (UW) veterinarian Kacie Woodward signed the attached certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) certifying that:

[T]he above animals have been inspected by me and that they are not showing signs of infectious, contagious, and/or communicable disease (except where noted)...To the best of my knowledge, the animals listed on this certificate meet the state of destination and federal interstate requirements....

The CVI did not note any exceptions.

The CVI was submitted to the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and assigned entry permit number 91WAS32083. The CVI showed that the 68 pigtailed macaques, who were transported the following day via JKL Secure Freight from UW's Arizona Breeding Colony near Mesa, Arizona, to UW's laboratories on the university's Seattle campus, were tested for two diseases, tuberculosis and Valley Fever, and all were reported as negative.

PETA has obtained public records showing that UW's "New Arrival Exams" for 64 of the 68 macaques, transported under entry permit 91WAS32083 and housed in rooms I023, I027, I033, and I035 of the I-wing of the UW's Health Sciences Building, documented multiple infectious, contagious and/or communicable

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diseases, including Shigella, Enteropathogenic E. coli (EPEC), Campylobacter, Entamoeba, Giardia, Vibrio, Cryptosporidium, and Norovirus.

- 96% of the monkeys tested positive for at least one pathogen.
- 75% were positive for three pathogens.
- 70% tested positive for Shigella.

I have highlighted the animal IDs in UW's Open Cases record generated on October 6, 2023, that correspond to the IDs listed on the CVI in the attached PDF. While UW's Open Cases report contained numerous animals with a variety of infectious conditions, Shigella was detected only in the recently pigtailed macaques imported from UW's Arizona Breeding Colony under entry permit 91WAS32083 less than one week earlier.

Given these findings, we have urgent questions that bear on the public health:

1. Did WSDA receive any notification from the UW or its personnel that animals covered by the Washington state entry permit 91WAS32083 were subsequently found to be infected with or carrying any of the pathogens identified above?
2. Did the Washington State Department of Health (DoH) receive any notification regarding these findings?
3. If such notifications were made, please identify the date, reporting party, recipient agency, and pathogens reported.
4. If no notifications were made, please confirm that neither WSDA nor the DoH received any report concerning these findings.

You may consider this a public records request, if necessary, but given the urgency of the matter, we ask that you respond without the lengthy process required to locate, review, and possibly redact records for production. PETA and the public simply want to know if the presence of these dangerous pathogens in the state was reported to the proper authorities, since it is not currently a requirement.

Sincerely,



Lisa Jones-Engel, PhD
Chief Science Advisor, Primate Experimentation
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cc: wsboh@sboh.wa.gov; regents@uw.edu