

My name is Laila Imai. I'm speaking on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. While Ajinomoto adopted an animal testing policy in 2021, it continues to allow a wide variety of cruel and deadly experiments on animals even when non-animal methods are widely available.

For example, Ajinomoto's policy purports to ban animal testing for "seasonings, processed foods, frozen foods and drinks," but it does not prohibit animal testing to examine the "nutritional impact" of foods for mitigating human diseases. As you know, Ajinomoto sells coffee through its subsidiary Ajinomoto AGF, Inc., which we were shocked to learn funded an [experiment](#) published earlier this month in which experimenters fed mice an ingredient derived from coffee, injected them with cancer cells, repeatedly forced them to run on a treadmill with increasing speed until the animals were completely exhausted and chose to be electroshocked over continuing to run, took blood from their eye sockets, and killed them. This coffee-derived food ingredient has been investigated in [human trials](#) for decades, making this animal test particularly cruel and unnecessary.

Disturbingly, this experiment appears to violate Ajinomoto's own 2021 animal testing policy, as coffee is a drink and based on the grant number the test appears to have been funded after the company's policy took effect. Even if it's not a technical policy violation, tormenting animals in attempts to study the nutritional impact of foods of humans is unnecessary as many human clinical trials were already conducted for this ingredient. It's time for Ajinomoto to revamp its policy to prohibit animal testing for studying "nutritional impact" of foods.

More than 400 food and beverage companies and brands around the world—including The Coca-Cola Company, Kewpie Corporation, Nissin Foods Holdings Co., Ltd., Sapporo Holdings, Barilla, Ferrero, and Unilever—have banned experiments on animals that are not required by law after discussions with PETA entities. This includes companies that previously conducted animal testing but have since banned it.

Will Ajinomoto commit to banning the "nutritional impact" loophole in its animal testing policy?

Thank you.