



August 7, 2026

Dr. Dori Borjesson
Dean
College of Veterinary Medicine
Washington State University

Dear Dr. Borjesson:

Thank you in advance for your time. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 10.4 million members and supporters globally—to congratulate you on your upcoming retirement and regarding the continued use of animals in terminal laboratories at Washington State University (WSU) College of Veterinary Medicine, wherein eight horses were recently spared from being killed in a Junior Surgery laboratory, and 60 goats' fates remain uncertain.^{1,2,3}

In announcing your retirement, Washington State University highlighted numerous accomplishments achieved during your tenure, including expanded public health initiatives, strengthened clinical programs, and historic investments in veterinary education. The university also noted that, under your leadership, the college made "historic investments"⁴ in its facilities, including "\$10 million to expand simulation-based veterinary education."⁵ Further, in reflecting on your time as dean, you stated, "Together, we have expanded opportunities for our students, advanced research and public health initiatives, strengthened our clinical programs, and reinforced our commitment to serving the people and animals of Washington and beyond."⁶

As you prepare to conclude your service to the college, you have a unique opportunity to build on this legacy by helping ensure that WSU's veterinary training programs fully align with the profession's commitment to animal welfare and with the modern educational approaches increasingly adopted by veterinary schools nationwide.

¹ PETA. 2026. *YOU Helped Save These Horses From Laboratory Slaughter—But They Still Need Our Help*. Accessed July 27, 2026. <https://support.peta.org/page/95270/action/1>.

² KXLY. 2026. *WSU vet school cancels equine surgery course amid public pressure, threats*. Accessed July 27, 2026. https://www.kxly.com/news/wsu-vet-school-cancels-equine-surgery-course-amid-public-pressure-threats/article_76ecbf14-a54d-405b-b4d7-dfad7c21eb57.html.

³ Moscow-Pullman Daily News. March 17, 2026. *WSU cancels horse surgery course after public backlash*. Accessed July 27, 2026. <https://www.dnews.com/local-news/wsu-cancels-horse-surgery-course-after-public-backlash-b4faca9a>.

⁴ Washington State University. July 15, 2026. *College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Dori Borjesson announces retirement*. *WSU Insider*. Accessed July 27, 2026. <https://news.wsu.edu/news/2026/07/15/college-of-veterinary-medicine-dean-dori-borjesson-announces-retirement>.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Washington
1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Info@peta.org
PETA.org

Entities:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

Earlier this year, WSU ended the terminal portion of its equine surgery course, sparing eight horses who had been slated for use in the laboratory. At the same time, the fate of approximately 60 goats/sheep used in WSU's Junior Surgery laboratory remains uncertain. The decision to end the terminal equine laboratory demonstrated that change is possible and that WSU can evolve its educational programs in response to ethical concerns and advances in veterinary training.

We respectfully request that WSU permanently prohibit all terminal laboratory sessions (including for goats/sheep) and instead use humane, need-based clinical care teaching methods that only permit procedures in the animals' best interest.

You can contact me directly at MaggieW@peta.org. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maggie Wiśniewska'.

Maggie Wiśniewska, Ph.D.
Science Policy Advisor, International Laboratory Methods
Laboratory Investigations Department