



June 24, 2020

Dr. James Tracy
Vice Chancellor for Research
University Of Kansas
B054 Mallot Hall
Lawrence, KS 66045
Via email to: james.tracy@ku.edu

Dear Vice Chancellor Tracy,

On behalf of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS), including our membership in Kansas, I am writing to relay our concern with regard to troubling evidence of animal suffering taking place in University of Kansas facilities and to respectfully ask that you consider ending the medical experiments taking place that cause this suffering.

Documents We Reviewed

NEAVS reviewed a document created by the University of Kansas entitled "Column E Explanation (Amendment)" which was made available for public inspection in 2019 by the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS).

Finding: Violent Experiments Intentionally Putting Animals In Harm

This document reveals that University of Kansas is conducting experiments in which animals, specifically prairie voles, are put in an "arena" environment explicitly to observe the animals fighting and attempting to harm one another. The document makes clear that biting is expected to occur, and explains that animals with certain wounds from this experience, such as "wounds that expose bone," will be euthanized by research staff. The two experiment types we are concerned about are "Resident Intruder" tests and "Social Defeat" tests, specifically. We are also disturbed by the number of animals involved; according to the document we reviewed, 384 voles were forced to endure these experiences.

Request: Terminate Funding for Violent "Cage Fight" Experiments

While this test may have been conducted in compliance with existing Animal Welfare laws and regulations, that should not be the minimum standard for animal welfare under your leadership at the University of Kansas. This intrinsically violent experiment may have been tolerated in the past at your institution, but the suffering inherent to this crude research warrants your intervention to immediately end cruel fighting experiments at the University of Kansas and to enact a policy against allowing the funding of any similarly violent research protocols in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Herschler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nathan Herschler, Executive Director
New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS)

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