



National Association for
**BIOMEDICAL
RESEARCH**

September 2, 2025

Dane County Board of Supervisors
City-County Building, Room 201
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Members of the Dane County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to oppose [Resolution 119](#): “Calling on Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to Revoke Ridgland Farms’ Commercial Dog Breeder License and Place Dogs in Custodial Care During Ongoing Investigation.”

For 46 years, NABR has been the nation’s only organization solely dedicated to advocating for sound public policy in support of ethical and essential laboratory animal research and the lifesaving discoveries they produce. In addition to members in Wisconsin, NABR’s diverse and unified membership includes more than 350 universities, medical and veterinary schools, teaching hospitals, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology companies, patient groups, and academic and professional societies that rely on the humane and responsible use of research animals to advance global human and animal health.

Purpose-bred dogs represent less than 1 percent of animals used in science. Yet they play an irreplaceable role in the development of new vaccines and therapies for animal health. Their controlled genetics, known health status, and predictable behavior provide a consistent and reliable model that cannot be replicated by other means for veterinary vaccine and drug development. While alternative methods continue to evolve, they currently cannot fully substitute the unique contributions of purpose-bred dogs in ensuring the safety and efficacy of veterinary medical advancements.

Ridgland Farms is one of the most reliable sources of research dogs for the animal health industry in the U.S. Ridgland Farms provides dogs with a high health status, meaning that they are free of common canine diseases. Revoking Ridgland Farms’ commercial breeder license would seriously disrupt the ability to access purpose-bred dogs for research. This, in turn, would slow down public and private veterinary research in the U.S. for pets, farm animals and wildlife, with near-certain consequences for our public health.

Additionally, canine research is also necessary for human health research. Twenty-two of the top 25 most prescribed drugs were developed thanks to canine models.¹ Fourteen of the top 25 most popular medical devices were developed with the help of research dogs.² Cardiac pacemakers, stents and coronary angioplasty balloons, developed with research dogs, are fitted for humans, pet dogs and cats that have cardiovascular disease. Implantable glucose monitoring devices and insulin pumps, both developed with canine models, are fitted both for diabetic humans and dogs. 82.6 million Americans live with some form of cardiovascular disease, and 38.4 million

¹ <https://www.fbresearch.org/medical-advances/top-drugs>

² <https://www.fbresearch.org/top-devices>



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Americans live with diabetes. Revoking Ridgman Farms' breeder license would essentially halt this research, with further consequences for Americans' health and the strength of our biomedical research enterprise.

We are aware that Ridgman Farms has been repeatedly audited by veterinarians with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) who specialize in assessing animal breeders and animal researchers for their compliance with the federal US Animal Welfare Act and Regulations. We bring into question the need for Resolution 119 calling on the Wisconsin DATCP to revoke Ridgman Farms' commercial dog breeding license because the Wisconsin DATCP has not provided an explanation for how the findings of the USDA's audit of Ridgman Farms differs from the findings from their own investigation.

Wisconsin-based and national groups that are ideologically opposed to research with dogs are heavily invested in misinformation campaigns against canine research and Ridgman Farms. The request for a special investigation of Ridgman Farms came from animal rights extremist who had just been exonerated of felony charges for breaking into Ridgman Farms and stealing dogs, coupled with two Wisconsin-based radical animal rights groups. Letting ideologically-motivated, radical special interest groups and individuals dictate the future of science would set a dangerous precedent for Dane County, the state of Wisconsin, and the country. Scientific facts should dictate science.

When considering the ethical implications of conducting research with dogs, we should also consider the ethical implications of depriving millions of animals and human patients of treatments. When considering Resolution 119, we should also consider why the public hasn't received a clear big picture explanation for the need for this Resolution.

For these reasons, I ask you, esteemed members of the County Board of Supervisors, to side with science and facts, and to oppose Resolution 119.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Bailey
President
National Association for Biomedical Research