



# PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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October 21, 2003

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.  
Director  
National Institutes of Health  
1 Center Dr., Bldg. 1, Rm. 126  
Bethesda, MD 20892-0148

Dear Dr. Zerhouni:

Our members and supporters total more than 750,000, many of whom will soon receive the latest edition of *PETA's Animal Times* and many of whom have access to our Web site, PETA.org. Within days, these people and many more will read about atrocities to animals used in experimentation at Columbia University. They will know that animals used in Columbia's laboratories were denied veterinary care and euthanasia when they needed it. They will see photographs and videotape on our Web site of baboons and rhesus macaques suffering through painful and unnecessary experiments. **We are writing to you at this time to ask that the NIH shut down Columbia's animal laboratories—just as it did in 1986—until a thorough purging of indifferent personnel and unacceptable attitudes is accomplished.**

The remedy for what ails Columbia calls for strong medicine. There is a systemic illness of spirit that pervades Columbia's laboratories, and animals have suffered far too long because of it and because of management's inaction. The federal government has also been a party to this suffering, and this must stop—the good ol' boy network must be shaken up.

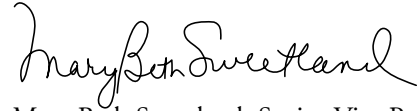
Animals used in Columbia's laboratories in NIH-funded experiments were being treated so poorly—in fact, dying in their cages without any veterinary care—that a veterinarian had to risk her career to blow the whistle on this supposedly prestigious university and its College of Physicians and Surgeons. In January 2003, PETA wrote to the NIH's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) to provide sickening documentation regarding baboons being killed in stroke experiments. When a veterinarian from Tufts University looked at the stroke experimental protocol, he was horrified to see that the anesthetics given to the baboons appeared inadequate. When experienced neurologists looked at the protocol, they deemed it a waste of animal lives, time, and research money.

The sloppiness of these stroke experiments on baboons calls into question all data that were gathered and published by E. Sander Connolly of Columbia. In a May 9, 2001, news release issued by pharmaceutical company Progenics in Tarrytown, N.Y., Connolly says of dehydroascorbic acid (DHA), the Progenics substance being tested on a group of baboons: "The positive outcome of this study underscores the potential of DHA to protect against the debilitating consequences of stroke." We believe that the serious nature of the complaints against Columbia's treatment of animals used in these experiments should prompt the NIH to investigate all data gathered for any and all substances that Connolly tested on the baboons while it also examines the post-surgical records for the animals.

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ORGANIZATION DEDICATED  
TO PROTECTING  
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS

Please let us know that the NIH is not going to help Columbia University sweep the scandal of its failure to abide by minimal federal laws under the rug. We look forward to hearing from you as regards closing Columbia's animal experimentation laboratories and thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth Sweetland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Beth Sweetland, Senior Vice President  
Director, Research & Investigations Department

cc: Representative James C. Greenwood, Chair of the Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations