
(Your name and address)

Dr. Karen A. Holbrook, President
The Ohio State University
205 Bricker Hall
190 North Oval Mall
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1357

Dear President Holbrook:

This letter is to request that you discontinue the use of live cats in Ohio State's medical training wet lab that instructs emergency medical services personnel in pediatric intubation. The use of live cats to teach this procedure is unnecessary and, in the long run, more costly than the use of the sophisticated medical mannequins now available that are designed for this purpose. The use of live cats also violates the university's pledge to abide by the three Rs regarding its use of animals – Reduce (the number of animals used), Refine (methods so that animals are exposed to less pain and stress), and Replace (animals with alternatives such as mannequins and computer models).

By using live cats for this training, the university is guilty of unnecessary cruelty. The animals can and do often suffer serious adverse effects as a result of their experience, including trauma to the epithelium of the trachea, injury to support tissues at the base of the tongue and swelling due to edema, laceration of the frenulum area by the cats' incisors, trauma to the ventral surface of the tongue, compression of the lingual veins and lingual edema, tracheolaryngeal bruising and bleeding, scarring, severe pain, and chronic cough.

Another adverse effect, in the case of Ohio State's cats, is death. The university has not kept its promise not to euthanize the cats after the training sessions. Perhaps euthanasia has become necessary due to severe injuries at the hands of the inexperienced trainees.

The suffering and deaths of these cats is another needless blow to the reputation of your university regarding its treatment of the animals in its laboratories. I urge you investigate the culture of cruelty that now pervades Ohio State and results in such fiascos as the notorious cats-on-meth experiments, the recent deaths of chimpanzees sent to an inadequate facility over the objections of their researcher-guardian, and now this insensitive and unnecessary intubation training.

Please put an end *now* to intubation training that uses live cats and to all other procedures that cause unnecessary animal suffering at Ohio State. Such activities should not and must not be funded with our tax dollars.

Respectfully,