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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

March 31, 2017

The Honorable Michael J. Missal
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
801 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Inspector General Missal,

I am writing to express my sincere concerns and seek additional information about apparent experiments on dogs being conducted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

According to press reports, these disturbing and controversial experiments on dogs include everything from inducing heart attacks to invasive brain-damaging surgeries, which can leave the animals severely maimed or dead.

I also am concerned about the lack of transparency surrounding these experiments. Information about the results of these experiments isn't readily available to the public, according to press reports, and anything done with taxpayer dollars should be done with full disclosure to the public.

I urge you to investigate this situation and share your findings with my office. Specifically, I am interested in learning why these experiments are not being adequately disclosed to the public, whether animals are being harmed unnecessarily and whether taxpayer dollars are being misused.

While we should do all we can to ensure that veterans are getting the treatment and care they deserve, I also feel strongly that the public has a right to know how taxpayer dollars are being spent – and the extent of any experimentation on animals – at the VA.

If you have any questions about our request, please contact my office in Washington at 202-225-5015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

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