

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

I write to request that you hold a full committee hearing on taxpayer-funded experimentation on animals, especially dogs. Our Committee should explore what animal research is being funded by our government and ensure that taxpayer money is not used to support inhumane and cruel experiments on dogs.

In recent weeks, it has come to light that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) funds drug research experiments on young dogs.¹ Although NIAID denies funding some of the most cruel animal experimentation initially attributed to that agency, NIAID officials admitted that they do fund research experiments on young dogs. Those experiments include performing cordectomies, or a procedure which removes a dog's vocal cord to prevent them from barking, howling, or crying.² A cordectomy is "an invasive procedure with the inherent risks of anesthesia, infection, blood loss and other serious complications," "post-operative pain and discomfort," as well as long-term physical, psychological, and behavioral risks to the dog.³ Purportedly, these inhumane procedures were performed, in part, to keep the dogs from making noise in excess of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. And NIAID isn't the only agency that potentially supports cruel animal experimentation. For example, the Food and Drug Administration may also play a role in conducting animal research.⁴

American taxpayer dollars should not fund needless inhumane procedures on dogs. This Committee should have a hearing to explore the issue of animal experimentation with federal

¹ Bowden, John, 'Cruel' puppy experiment was 'mistakenly' linked to US health agency, INDEPENDENT (Oct. 26, 2021).

² *Id.*

³ Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, *Devocalization Fact Sheet*, available at <https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/archive/assets/pdfs/hsvma/devocalization-fact-sheet-1.pdf> (last accessed Oct. 27, 2021).

⁴ Taylor, Scott, *Drug-testing on puppies: new report asks for alternative testing at FDA labs*, ABC7 WJLA NEWS (Jul. 11, 2021).

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public health officials and ensure that taxpayer dollars are not being wasted on inhumane and cruel animal experiments. It is imperative that our Committee study whether the limited benefits of experiments on dogs is justified considering their inhumane nature.

Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



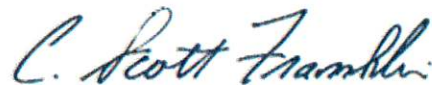
Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
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Yvette Herrell
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Scott Franklin
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Andy Biggs
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Ralph Norman
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