

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Status of Live Tissue Training

Dear Attorney General Garland:

As we begin a new year, we respectfully urge the Department of Justice (DOJ) to permanently discontinue wasteful and unnecessary “live tissue training” (LTT) for department personnel.

LTT is the practice of intentionally wounding live animals—usually stabbing and shooting pigs, goats, and sometimes dogs to then have trainees crudely attempt to repair the damage. We understand that both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Marshall Service have employed LTT as recently as 2019.^{1,2}

This practice at the DOJ is unnecessary, as we have seen other federal agencies switch to human patient simulators that government studies have repeatedly shown are more effective and cost-efficient than LTT. We also understand the DOJ has already invested in the human simulation technology needed to make this transition. Unlike live animals, human simulators can be reused indefinitely – saving both taxpayer dollars and animals’ lives.

Other federal agencies aren’t the only agencies to switch from LTT – it is also clear that our military finds LTT not only less effective for training purposes, but costly as well. The Pentagon has stated that LTT is “outdated and cost-prohibitive” and that “live tissue training

¹ Frazin, R. (2019, Oct 26). Lawmakers express concern to DOJ over training involving 'stabbing, burning and shooting' animals. *The Hill*. Retrieved August 19, 2021, from <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/467592-lawmakers-express-concern-to-doj-over-training-involving-stabbing>

² White Coat Waste Project. WCW Lawsuit Victory. Retrieved August 19, 2021 from <https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2021/02/04/wcw-lawsuit-victory-we-got-the-receipts-doj-wasted-your-dismembering-animals-in-sick-live-tissue-training-exercises/>

options are not anatomically accurate.”^{3,4} Similarly, the **U.S. Navy** has found, “highly realistic [simulation] training was rated as more beneficial than live tissue training for the development of advanced corpsman skills,”⁵ and an Army-funded study concluded that simulated training costs less than live tissue training.⁶ Another recent Pentagon-funded study concluded that animated human simulators can replace LTT, stating, “preferential use of high fidelity manikins for emergency surgical airway training may reduce both costs and ethical harm to animals.”⁷ The **U.S. Coast Guard** is also adapting and has already completely discontinued LTT in favor of high-tech simulation.

It is time the DOJ follow suit and transition to more accurate and cost-effective technology – leaving behind the cruel and unnecessary practice of LTT. If our military can adapt to and rely on new practices, then surely our law enforcement can follow their lead.

On April 29, 2021, a group of Congressional members sent an appropriations request letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee of Commerce, Justice, and Science urging them to include report language ending the practice of LTT. While this language was not adopted as part of the FY22 appropriations package, we urge you to take independent action toward ending this inhumane and wasteful practice inside the DOJ.

We thank you for your attention to this issue and for considering our request that will save taxpayer dollars, protect animals from abuse, and improve training for DOJ personnel.

Sincerely,



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

³ Defense Health Agency. 2016 Stakeholder Report. Retrieved August 19, 2021, from <https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Reports/2017/06/08/Defense-Health-Agency-2016-Stakeholder-Report>.

⁴ National Institutes of Health. Seed Funding Health Technologies. 2017 NIH Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Conference. Retrieved August 19, 2021, from https://www.sbir.gov/sites/default/files/Master_Health_Technologies.National_SBIR.pptx

⁵ Booth-Kewley, S., McWhorter, S. K., Dell Acqua, R. G., Altarejos, I. V., & Schmied, E. (2015). *Perceived strengths and weaknesses of highly realistic training and live tissue training for Navy corpsmen*. Naval Health Research Center San Diego United States. Retrieved August 19, 2021, from <https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/1000732.pdf>.

⁶ Evans, L., & Post, L. (2016). *Evaluation of the effectiveness of LTR training versus simulation training and stress inoculation*. Yale University New Haven United States. Retrieved August 19, 2021, from <https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/1025216.pdf>

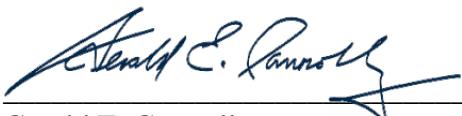
⁷ Pandian, V., Leeper, W. R., Jones, C., Pugh, K., Yenokyan, G., Bowyer, M., & Haut, E. R. (2020). Comparison of surgical cricothyroidotomy training: a randomized controlled trial of a swine model versus an animated robotic manikin model. *Trauma surgery & acute care open*, 5(1), e000431. Retrieved August 19, 2021, from <https://doi.org/10.1136/tsaco-2019-000431>



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