

# JAVA NEWS No.105 English ver.

This “JAVA NEWS No.105 English ver.” is a summary of JAVA NEWS No.105 published in Japanese on October 30, 2020.



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## Victory!

**Asahi Group will ban animal testing for Food & Beverages by the end of 2021**

**Asahi Group will ban animal testing for cosmetics immediately**

JAVA has been requesting Asahi Group Holding, Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as Asahi Group) to ban animals testing since January 2020. Asahi Group clarified in their answering paper to JAVA that they will totally ban animal testing for food and beverages by the end of 2021, and will totally stop animal testing for cosmetics and quasi-drugs immediately.



As a result, the Asahi Group's animal testing policies are as follows:

Asahi Group clarified:

- 1) will ban animal testing completely in the field of food and beverages by the end of 2021.
- 2) banned animal testing completely in the field of cosmetics on June 30, 2020.
- 3) banned animal testing completely in the field of daily use items in early February 2020.
- 4) will strengthen human investment and financial investment for the development and spread of Alternatives to Animal Experiments: making the human investment more than three times than before, increasing RD expenses, and becoming a member of the Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments on May, 2020, etc.

\*However, there is a possibility of animal testing as exceptions below.

1. In case of public health accountability such as accidents after marketing.
2. In case of legally required by the system of other countries.

Although there are over a year until the end of 2021, JAVA welcomes the decisive measure of Asahi Group to take the voices of consumers who do not want animal testing seriously and decided a full ban of animal testing.

Within a short period of about five months from the meeting of JAVA on February 21 of this year with Asahi Group, we were able to draw out the Asahi Group's decision to ban animal testing completely including Food for Specified Health Uses (FOSHU) and Food with Function Claims (FFC). Thanks to everyone who cooperated with the campaign. Thank you for your support!

### Supplementary confirmation

In addition to the contents of the response, JAVA confirmed the following points by e-mail from the person in-charge on July 14, 2020.

## **Food and Beverages**

- do not conduct animal testing on Food for Specified Health Uses (FOSHU) and Food with Functional Claims (FFC) throughout the entire process, from planning and designing to search for materials, development, application for permission/notification, manufacturing, sales, in some cases, patent application.
- do not conduct animal testing for checking, both functionality and safety.
- do not conduct any animal testing including preliminary experiments.
- do not conduct animal testing neither in-house, nor outsource to external organizations, nor fund for animal testing.
- do not conduct animal testing in basic research and joint research.

## **Cosmetics**

- do not conduct animal testing for cosmetics and quasi-drugs throughout the entire process, from planning and designing, to searching for ingredients, development, making application for approval, manufacturing, sales, in some cases, patent application.
- do not conduct animal testing on application for manufacturing and marketing approval of quasi-drugs, and request to revise cosmetics standards.
- do not conduct animal testing neither in-house, nor outsource to external organizations, nor fund for animal testing.
- do not conduct animal testing on basic research and joint research.
- All animal testing mentioned above were totally banned on June 30, 2020.

\*The details of this campaign are posted on the following site.

<https://www.java-animal.org/asahi2020-English/>

## **Good News!**

### **The frog dissection class in Setagaya City will be cancelled!**

“Frog dissection” was planned as a summer program for junior high school students, hosted by the Education Center in Setagaya city, Tokyo. Parents of students in junior high schools asked JAVA to help stop this frog dissection class.

## **About the Dissection Class**

- The science experiment classes are planned as one of the summer programs for students of junior high school in Setagaya City. The classes take place at the Education Center in the city.
- Junior high school teachers in the district give guidance to every class.
- The announcement flyer says:

“Frogs are amphibians, humans are mammals, but we are both vertebrates. Let’s learn about the structure and mechanism of the human body from many similarities between amphibians and mammals.” “Learn the importance of life and mystery of life through the dissection of frogs.”

## **The Issues of Dissection and Pros of Alternative Method**

It is ethically unacceptable to chop up animal bodies. We cannot learn “the importance of life” with such cruel acts. If adolescent students attend the dissection classes planned by the city, it is possible that they will think chopping up animal bodies and killing them are good things.

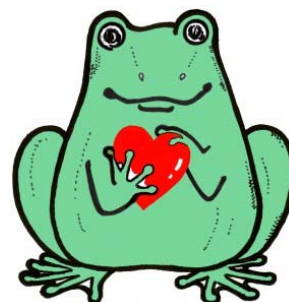
There are various ways to learn the mechanism of the animal body without sacrificing animals, such as computer simulation, video, elaborate 3D models, and so on. There are many advantages of using an alternative method; students can learn the process of dissection over and over again; they can proceed at their own pace. Some papers suggest that students who have learned by alternative methods are superior to students who have learned by a dissection.

By learning the method without the use of animals, students learn ethical attitude: such as “Don’t take the living creature's life.” “Life is precious.” In other words, in order to make students gain knowledge and develop an attitude of respect for life, alternative methods instead of dissection should be used.

## **Response: Setagaya City’s Decision to Cancel the Dissection Class**

JAVA pointed out the issue of dissection to Mayor, Setagaya City and submitted a document requesting the cancellation of the dissection class. The members of JAVA and parents of junior high school students in Setagaya City conveyed their opinions to the Mayor.

On July 31, the Setagaya Board of Education replied to JAVA that they decided to cancel the Frog dissection class.



## **Letters submitted in joint names with overseas groups**

JAVA often tackles issues with overseas animal rights groups. We report here on two letters submitted in joint names.

### **Letter about reducing animal testing in drug development**

In June, JAVA and British-based Cruelty Free International (CFI) sent a letter titled “Recent paper on two-species regulatory toxicology studies, by the UK National Centre for the 3Rs (NC3Rs)” to Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA) and Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA).

JAVA and CFI are members of “International Council on Animal Protection in Pharmaceutical Programmes (ICAPPP)” to push forward 3Rs in drug development.

We sent it because of the contents of the paper “Opportunities for use of one species for longer-term toxicology testing during drug development: A cross-industry evaluation”, which was issued by UK NC3Rs in February.

The study in the paper was conducted based on the evaluation of 172 drug candidates and an important fact was found that two-thirds of the drug candidates could have been developed using just one, instead of two, animal species in longer-term toxicology testing.

So JAVA and CFI gave the information of the paper to the both organizations that are responsible for the pharmaceutical industry and approval review for newly developed drugs in Japan, and we requested them to plan, tackle, argue and develop to conduct tests by use of one species instead of two and also claimed which would lead to the drastic reduction of animal testing before too long.

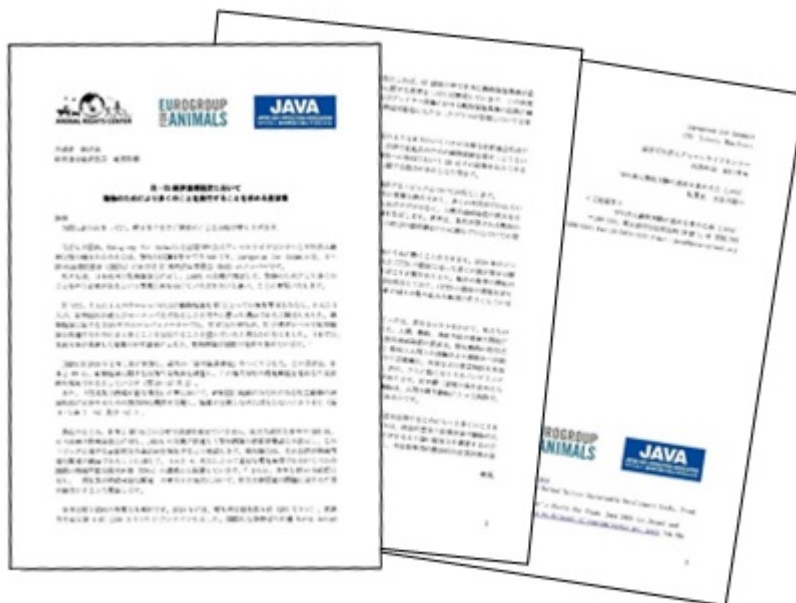
### **Letter asking for encouraging animal welfare in the context of EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)**

In July, JAVA, Animal Rights Center Japan, and Eurogroup for Animals, which is an animal right group in Belgium, submitted “A Call to Do More for Animals in the context of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement” in their joint names to the European Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

JAVA NEWS No. 104 English ver. already reported that the three groups participated the symposium on the EPA hosted by the EU.

The EPA entered into force on February 1, 2019. This agreement provides the EU and Japan with the possibility to set up a technical working group on animal welfare, and to adopt a working plan to define priorities in this area of cooperation (Article 18.17.2). In the context of ‘the Trade and Sustainable Development’ chapter, parties shall also implement effective measures to combat illegal trades in endangered species of wild fauna, and exchange information on this topic (Article 16.6.2.(b) and (d)).

As of today, however, the EU and Japan have not made any progress in this field. Therefore, the three organizations submitted this call, which is one of our efforts to improve animal welfare making good use of the EPA.



## Revised Act on Welfare and Management of Animals went into effect “The standards for the appropriate care and management” is currently in development

Since the fall of 2016, JAVA, Animal Rights Center Japan, and PEACE have engaged on activities in cooperation with each other to revise Act on Welfare and Management of Animals. The revised Act on Welfare and Management of Animals was enacted on June 12, 2019 and was enforced on June 1<sup>st</sup> this year. (Some part of it is enforced in 2021 or 2022.)

Accordingly, part of the previous regulations became greatly stricter, like “a person who has destroyed or injured, without reason, a protected animal shall be punished by imprisonment with work for not more than five years or a fine of not more than five million yen.” instead of “imprisonment with work for not more than two years or a fine of not more than two million yen.”, and the penalty for neglect, abuse, or abandonment is also stricter like “imprisonment with work for not more than one year or a fine of not more than one million yen” instead of “a fine of not more than one million yen”. And the requirements of refusal of registration for animal handling business became stricter, and regarding specified animals, so-called savage beasts, we are not allowed to keep such dangerous animals as pets any more.

We announced on the last JAVA NEWS that after the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals was revised, the related standards and other things also have to be revised or developed, and some of them had already been revised.

Presently discussion and negotiation have been under way in the Ministry of the Environment to develop “The standards for the appropriate care and management” that animal handling business companies need to comply with, which the revised Act on Welfare and Management of Animals newly stipulates to define.

This standard is drawing attention. Because, in regard to rearing by animal handling businesses dealing with dogs or cats such as cat cafes and non-profitable organizations as well as pet stores and breeders, it includes rules that regulate the size of animal facilities like cages, the number of care-workers and the number of births in a lifetime with concrete figures. The three organizations, JAVA, Animal Rights Center Japan, and PEACE, have been working for “the standards for the appropriate care and management”, by stating our opinions in meetings hosted by political parties or the coalition of diet members for zero disposal of dogs and cats, appealing to the Ministry of Environment, and so on.



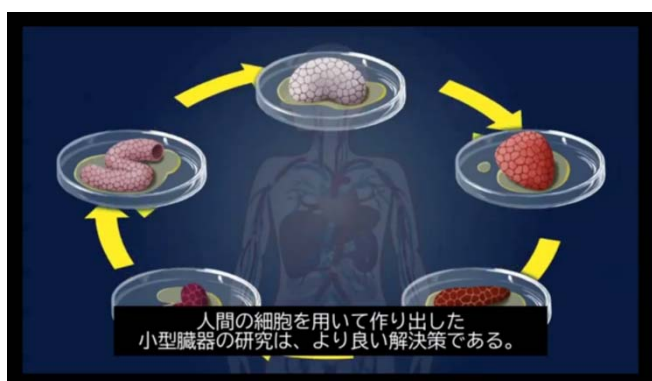


## Introduction of two videos

### We posted a video which doctors and scientists in Germany have made with Japanese subtitles

We posted a video a “Mini organs and multi-organ-chips Scientific progress without animal experiments” made by Doctors Against Animal Experiments Germany on YouTube. They support the immediate abolition of all animal experiments. This animated video shows some of the possibilities of innovative research methods based on cells of human origin that are scientifically sound. This video is originally written only in English. Therefore, JAVA translated it to Japanese and put Japanese subtitles on it with the permission of Doctors Against Animal Experiments Germany.

<https://youtu.be/ok5Y7thGnfg>



### JAVA's original videos

#### The third story is now available

We have been posting original videos which show problems of animal testing and activity of JAVA on YouTube since 2019. The first and second videos are now available and the third one is completed in October. The third story “How to do animal testing? Examples around us” explains how animal testing is done specifically and appeals how unethical animal testing is.

<https://youtu.be/CD3o6BPeiho>



## Distribution of PR goods

In November 2018, collaborated with fashion brand “JAMMIN” we sold charity T-shirts just for one week from which we collected 205,260Yen (about \$2,530). With that money we made 10,000 of pocket tissue with advertisement of JAVA and animal testing. In order for people to know about it. We gave the pocket tissues away in front of stations, sightseeing areas all over Japan. Although some are left due to the postponement and the cancellation of events by influence of COVID-19, we managed to distribute more than 8,000 pocket tissues.

Thank you for your corporation. We really appreciate it.



## Traps being set by a pest extermination company JAVA calls for prevention of cat extermination

In March, residents of Ota Ward, Tokyo, reported to JAVA the following that Seibu Shodoku Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as Seibu Shodoku) installed a trap for small animals such as weasels on the premises of an apartment in their neighborhood.

- A trap is being placed on the premises of an apartment in their neighborhood for a long time.
- The company name “Seibu Shodoku” and their contact information are written on the trap.
- There are several stray cats living around the apartment, so residents are concerned that the trap may be set to catch these stray cats.
- In response to the residents’ inquiry, Seibu Shodoku stated that they do not undertake capturing animals, but they do lease traps.





Seibu Shodoku's trap that was set on the premises of the apartment

### **The wall of the law that stands in the way**

Seibu Shodoku is a company that manages the hygiene of facilities and equipment, and also exterminates cockroaches, termites, rats, masked palm civets, raccoons, etc. that have been regarded as pests and vermin. It is the convenience of human beings to treat them as pests and vermin, and of course, the animals are not guilty of anything. JAVA aspires to eliminate the sacrifice of any creature. However, legally, it is not illegal to exterminate the above-mentioned types of animals (the extermination of masked palm civet and raccoon requires permission under the law regarding wildlife). Therefore, unfortunately, Regrettably JAVA cannot stop Seibu Shodoku from doing the business of exterminating these animals.

### **Problems with cat capture**

But when it comes to catching cats, it is different. If you capture a cat that belongs to someone else, you are guilty of theft. It is clear that killing a captured cat violates the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals. Furthermore, if it is a domestic cat of another person, it is a criminal damage to property. It is said that there is a possibility of being considered an "abuse" if the stray cats are captured not for the purpose of protection but for the purpose of extermination. Therefore, if Seibu Shodoku rents or installs a catcher, Seibu is responsible for taking sufficient measures to prevent its client from illegally catching cats.

### **Request to stop entrapping cats**

JAVA pointed out the problem of catching cats and asked Seibu Shodoku to stop the rental service of traps. However, Seibu Shodoku responded, "We rent out traps for the purpose of catching wild animals as permitted by law. We cannot stop the renting service of traps." Therefore, JAVA requested the following measures and improvements when renting and installing traps.

1. Do not rent or install traps for any purpose other than catching wild animals with legal permission.
2. Make sure that the purpose of the renter's use of the trap is not to exterminate, abuse or abandon cats before

renting it out.

3. Make all employees aware of the illegality of trapping cats.
4. Before renting the traps, make sure that the renter promises to monitor at all times when installing and trapping, and to not leave the trap unattended.
5. State the following on the leaflet distributed to the renter.
  - Killing, abusing, and abandoning cats are crimes that violate the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals.
  - Capturing cats may be a violation of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals, or may be considered theft.
  - If one accidentally catches a cat, he/she must immediately release it.

## **Response from Seibu Shodoku**

JAVA received a written response from Seibu Shodoku promising the above five points.

It is sad and frustrating to have animals that cannot be prevented from being exterminated. It is difficult for our activities to be 100% successful, but we believe we must do what we can do to reduce the sacrifices of animals as much as possible.

## **Fur News**

Fur Free Alliance (FFA), an international federation against fur, of which JAVA is also a member. Member organizations in each country continue to work together to ban fur and fur farms. In this issue, we have introduced the following news.

### **Impact of the new coronavirus infection (COVID-19) on the fur industry**

#### **■ Netherlands**

the sources

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52535075>

<https://www.afpbb.com/articles/-/3301742>

<https://www.hln.be/wetenschap-planeet/dieren/nederlandse-nertsenhouders-moeten-begin-2021-de-deuren-sluiten~a748def6/>

#### **■ Spain**

the source

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53439263>

#### **■ Denmark**

the source

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/international/covid-spreads-to-another-denmark-mink-farm-484232>

## ■ USA

the sources

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa\\_one\\_health/sars-cov-2-animals-us](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_one_health/sars-cov-2-animals-us)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>

Currently, there is no evidence that minks and other animals are the main pathway for spreading COVID-19 to humans. It is also in the research stage whether animals are involved in the spread of the virus. In the Netherlands, there are only two reports that the virus seems to have transmitted to humans from minks, and most cases are human to mink transmission. Since animals are densely bred on fur farms, it is easy to imagine that when a virus is transmitted from human to an animal, the infection spreads throughout the farm in a blink of an eye. Animals destined to be bred and killed solely for their fur are also human victims of infectious diseases. In this respect too, fur farms should be abolished from all countries as soon as possible.

### **Good News!!**

#### **Estonia**

##### **One step closer to banning fur farms**

the source

<https://news.err.ee/1104692/23-members-of-parliament-initiate-bill-to-ban-fur-farms>

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

##### **The last mink farm is closed!**

the source

<https://www.facebook.com/FurFreeAlliance/photos/a.324664974610953/902554866821958/?type=3&theater>

#### **Finland**

##### **The largest party orders fur farms abolition**

the source

<https://www.furfreealliance.com/finnish-social-democrats-take-a-historical-stand-against-fur-farming/>

In this way, the steady activities of FFA member organizations are increasing the number of countries where fur farms are closed or banned by law. Japan has no fur farms since the last mink farm in the country was closed in 2016. This is great. However, many fur products are on the markets. In this season when fur products are lined up in stores, please take actions such as telling the people around you about the tragic reality of fur production and telling the store people that you do not want to buy real fur.

\*The information of “Fur News” is current as of September 9th, 2020.

## News from other countries

In these pages, we introduced some news articles selected from the newsletters and email news sent from overseas organizations. JAVA NEWS No.105 carries the following five articles. The five articles were translated in Japanese to share them with the readers.

You can read the original articles and related articles appeared in JAVA NEWS No.105 at the URL below:

### **NAT Database on Non-Animal Technologies**

August 5, 2020 Doctors Against Animal Experiments Germany press release

<https://www.aerzte-gegen-tierversuche.de/en/resources/animal-free-research/100>

### **A new day for egg-laying hens**

The Humane Society of the United States All ANIMALS Sept/Oct 2019

(Reprinted with permission of All ANIMALS, the membership magazine of the Humane Society of the United States)

[https://blog.humanesociety.org/2019/05/breaking-news-washington-governor-signs-historic-law-to-end-cage-confinement-of-egg-laying-hens.html?credit=blog\\_post\\_041520\\_id11343](https://blog.humanesociety.org/2019/05/breaking-news-washington-governor-signs-historic-law-to-end-cage-confinement-of-egg-laying-hens.html?credit=blog_post_041520_id11343)

### **Chicago Bans Horse-Drawn Carriages**

AWI Quarterly Summer 2020/Volume 69/Number 2

<https://awionline.org/awi-quarterly/summer-2020/chicago-bans-horse-drawn-carriages>

### **Our pets to be sold to laboratories**

June 22, 2020 One Voice blog

<https://one-voice.fr/en/blog/nos-animaux-familiers-jetes-en-pature-aux-laboratoires.htm>

### **U.S. HOUSE VOTES TO END HORSE SORING**

The Humane Society of the United States All ANIMALS Sept/Oct 2019

(Reprinted with permission of All ANIMALS, the membership magazine of the Humane Society of the United States)

<https://www.humanesociety.org/news/historic-vote-house-passes-bill-make-horse-soring-thing-past>

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