

JAVA NEWS No.106 English ver.

This “JAVA NEWS No.106 English ver.” is a summary of JAVA NEWS No.106 published in Japanese on June 4 2021.



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Nara Medical University, abolish of dissection training for medical students

However practical training on enzymes and RNA using rats will continue

Unusually high number of animal species to be dissected

Since 2019, JAVA has been asking to Nara Medical University for the abolition of live animal dissection conducted in the curriculum of medical students. It all started when JAVA received the information that Nara Medical University conducts the dissection training for many species of animal. This information was shared by the parents of high school students who want to apply to the University.

In order to confirm the facts, JAVA requested the University twice to disclose the animal experiment plan and confirm that many dissection trainings are conducted every year as shown in the table below.

Achievement of live animal dissection training in the curriculum of medical student at Nara Medical University (Jan 1st 2016-Aug 31st 2020)

Targeted student	Animal used	Number of animal (2016)	Number of animal (2017)	Number of animal (2018)	Number of animal (2019)
First year medical student	Red-eared slider	60	60	61	60
First year medical student	Chick	120	120	120	120
First year medical student	Mouse	120	120	120	120 + 10 (extra lecture)
First year medical student	African clawed frog			116	116
First year medical student	Silver Crucian Carp			120	120

*In addition, there are also dissection activities using Red-eared slider in their programs for high school students.

***In this case, dissection training refers to the practice of cutting and opening an animal's body for the purpose of observing the inside.**

In addition to above dissection trainings, the following three different practices using live animals were conducted in the medical student curriculum.

- 1) Pharmacology practice: Seeing the effect of drugs on intestinal contraction removed from guinea pigs.
- 2) Pharmacology practice: The drug is administered to anesthetized rats monitor their blood pressure and heart rate and kill then.
- 3) Biochemical practice: Organs and blood are collected from anesthetized rats. After partial purification of enzymes (AST) separation and detection of specific RNA, the rats are decapitated and killed.

Nara Medical University has been against to all 3Rs

Despite the fact that there are alternative methods for dissection training, Nara Medical University has continued to dissect to make students learn the obvious. They assigned one creature to each student, and in 2018, they added dissection training using Silver Crucian Carp and African clawed frog. They made no effort to reduce the number of dissection. Furthermore, they killed rats using a method of cervical spine dislocation without anesthesia, which is preferable to be done under anesthesia. As you can see from the above, they did not even try to alleviate the pain as much as possible, which was against all the 3Rs.

The reality of other local public universities

There are eight local public universities with the faculty of medicine in Japan, including Nara Medical University. As for other local public universities, JAVA requested to disclose the animal experiment plan under the same conditions as Nara Medical University. From the result (see table below) you can see how many animal species are dissected in Nara Medical University.

Achievement of live animal dissection trainings in the curriculum of medical students at local public universities (Jan 1st 2019-August 31st 2020)

University	Targeted Student	Animal used	Frequency
Sapporo Medical University	First year medical student	Mouse	Once a year
Fukushima Medical University	Unknown	Mouse	Once a year
Yokohama City University	First year medical student	Mouse	Once a year
Nagoya City University	Not in the medical school curriculum within the period		
Osaka City University	Not in the medical school curriculum within the period		
Wakayama Medical University	First year medical student	Mouse	Students divided in two groups Once a year
	First year medical student	Pregnant Mouse	Once a year
Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine	First year medical student	Mouse	Once a year
Nara Medical University	First year medical student	Red-eared slider	Once a year
	First year medical student	Chick	Once a year
	First year medical student	Mouse	Once a year
	First year medical student	African clawed frog	Once a year
	First year medical student	Silver Crucian Carp	Once a year

Abolition of dissection was found out

However, biochemical practice using rat will continue

In September 2019, JAVA submitted a letter of request to Mr. Hiroshi Hosoi, President and Chairman of the Board, Nara Medical University, asking for the following two points.

- Abolition of live animal dissection in the medical school curriculum.
- University should do its utmost to ensure that 3Rs are thoroughly conducted for animal testing not only in the faculty of medicine but also throughout the university.

Nara Medical University has not responded to abolition by deadline. However, JAVA continued to confirm the university about the status of the dissection training. As a result, in 2020 the university responded that “With the review of the curriculum, we have decided not to conduct dissection due to the reconsideration of the curriculum, and will not do the dissection in the future.” Finally, Nara Medical University has abolished the dissection training in the curriculum of medical students.

Furthermore, in April 2021, it was confirmed that following two practices were also abolished out of the three types of practices using animal except dissection*.

* Three types of practices using animal except dissection are noted in p.2.

- 1) Pharmacology practice using guinea pig
- 2) Pharmacology practice using rats

Due to the influence of COVID-19, 3) the biochemistry practice using rats may be conducted in the future, although the schedule is undecided.

However, it is a wise decision that Nara Medical University, which had conducted the most dissection training decided to abolish all dissection trainings, while other universities still are continuing it.

We would like to take this opportunity to promote the movement to abolish the training at the expense of animals in the faculty of medicine.



Suma Aqualife Park KOBÉ discontinues transfer of Mississippi red-eared sliders for experimental use

However, in the future the policy of abandonment of breeding will be taken

Suma Aqualife Park KOBÉ was established by Kobe City, Hyogo in 1987. It is known by the nick name “Sumasui”. Since 2006 its management has been consigned to private sector. Now, demolition of the building is currently underway due to the aging and other reasons and it will be renewed in 2024. After that, it will be completely privatized.

Established freshwater turtle accommodation facility “Kirakuen”

Sumasui established “Kirakuen”, accommodation facility for red-eared sliders including other freshwater turtles in August 2010. It is estimated that about 8,000,000 of red-eared sliders live in the wild (according to the analytics data of Ministry of the Environment in 2015). They were imported mainly from USA as pets and released into the wild. The park explained that they set up this facility in order to reduce the number of exotic turtles from nature.



Accommodation Facility
for Freshwater turtles
“Kirakuen” ©PEACE

Discovered the transfer of red-eared sliders to university for experiments

In 2019, it was discovered that Sumasui bred Mississippi red-eared sliders (* hereafter referred to as red-eared slider) were being transferred to Nara University for medical dissection training (Please read the previous article about Nara Medical University). This led to the JAVA investigation that revealed a number of alarming facts about this aquarium.

Unbelievable situations of Sumasui

[Real situation 1] Encourage citizens to bring red-eared sliders for extermination and abandonment

Sumasui introduced the red-eared sliders to the park by two ways. Firstly Sumasui have captured sliders that have gone wild for the purpose of research on the invasive exotic species. The other way is for “Red-eared

slider passport”. It is a system that had been in place for 10 years since 2010, whereby citizens can bring sliders they have captured outdoors to Sumasui and for each slider, one person will receive free admission. Initially, the trade was limited to the captured individuals, but there was no end to the number of individuals brought in that had been kept as pets, and they began to take those that were kept in captivity as well. In other words citizens are made to exterminate wild red-eared sliders and abandon the breeding of those kept as pets.

Update: In August 2020, in response to a letter of inquiry to Sumasui from JAVA, it was disclosed that Sumasui had stopped accepting red-eared sliders.

[Real Situation 2] Overcrowded breeding without proper breeding restrictions

■ Sumasui concealed the number of red-eared sliders accepted and bred

Sumasui responded to JAVA saying “We do not release detailed data including research materials and internal information.” They also said “We refrain from answering the number of breeding”. JAVA does not understand why the data which contains the number of freshwater turtles bred is the kind of information that cannot be publicized.

■ Number of red-eared sliders introduced to the Sumasui is unknown but overcrowding is obviously clear

Sumasui conceals about the number, but it is clear from website of Sumasui that 572 red-eared sliders were transferred by 2010 “red-eared slider passport”. According to the media coverage in June 2014, it was reported that Sumasui kept approximately 800 red-eared sliders. The number of sliders kept is extremely high and it is clear the park is overcrowded with them.

■ Disposal of eggs is the only breeding restriction Sumasui takes

It would be natural to limit breeding in order to keep the number of animals captivity at a reasonable level. However, the only action taken by Sumasui to limit the breeding of red-eared sliders was to discard eggs and they did not even keep the male sliders from females separately.

■ Decrease the number by killing and transfer them for experiments?

In Sumasui’s response to JAVA dated December 2020, they wrote “We cannot disclose the current number of sliders kept but compared to the time when the previous contractor was operating (JAVA note: before March 2020) the current number of sliders kept has been reduced by less than 10%, which means that the number of red-eared sliders kept has been reduced by 500~700. However, this is unusual decrease and it is not surprising to think that the decrease is due to the killing for research and educational purposes and the transfer for experiments as described before. Incidentally, a total of 313 sliders were transferred to Nara Medical University from 2016 to 2019.



Red-eared sliders in Kirakuen
in September 2019 ©PEACE

[Real situation 3] Kill red-eared sliders by freezing for research and educational purposes

JAVA asked Sumasui if they kill red-eared sliders and they answered “We do not kill them for the purpose of disposal but only for research and education (those raised as pets are excluded). The way of killing them is by freezing. Killing itself is unacceptable, but freezing makes them state of hypothermia and kills them gradually. Freezing is generally considered inappropriate by the OIE’s Terrestrial Animal Health Code and AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals because it causes hypothermia and slow death.

Update: In August 2020, JAVA received response from Sumasui that they will not kill even for research or educational purposes.

[Real situation 4] Transferred for the purpose of animal experiments

■ Sumasui conceals where they are transferred and the number of transfer

It turned out that Nara Medical University had obtained the red-eared sliders from Sumasui, therefore, JAVA asked to which research institutes they sold them and the number of the sliders they sold and the price per one. They admitted about free transfer for research and education but they didn’t answer where they transferred the sliders to and the number of the sliders they transferred.

■ Not even a record of the transfer

In addition, there are no records of transfer of red-eared sliders to Nara Medical University. They refused to answer the reason of no record. So JAVA asked the city of Kobe for an explanation, but the city acted as if it had no responsibility at all, saying “Sumisui is operated by the private sector, and the contractor has a certain amount of discretion regarding the introduction of animals for breeding and exhibition.”

The sliders are kept in a public aquarium, which means they are the property of the citizens. It is unacceptable that they would offer them to the outside, in other words, dispose of the property, but hide the fact that they gave them to the outside and have no word of it. JAVA continued to pursue the case against Sumasui.

Update: In August 2020, we received a reply from Sumasui stating that they had not transferred red-eared sliders for research and education since April 1 and would not do so in the future.

After the renewal, the aquarium will abandon red-eared sliders

As reported above, we are happy to see that the problems of new introduction of red-eared sliders, killing and transfer for animal experiments in Sumasui have been abolished. However, there is still a big problem. Sumasui will be renovated in the future, but the new aquarium will not continue to keep red-eared sliders. When we asked what they were going to do with the red-eared sliders, they replied “We are considering transferring them to other parks and institutions.” However, JAVA do not think there are any zoos or aquariums that would want red-eared sliders that are neither a rare animal nor the centerpiece of their exhibits. In fact, as of December 1, 2020, no destination has been decided.

Furthermore, we found out that there was a problem with this transfer plan: the transferee had no conditions regarding the treatment of the re-eared sliders. In other words the recipient parks or institutions could kill the red-eared sliders, use them as food for other animals, or use them for animal experiments.

Requesting the Mayor of Kobe to continue to keep animals in appropriate environments

In February 2021, JAVA sent a letter to the Mayor of Kobe City strongly requesting that “the new aquarium be built with appropriate facilities that suit the ecology and habits of the red-eared sliders, and that they continue to keep them in a way that takes animal welfare into consideration.

The response from Kobe City was as irresponsible as saying that the city had nothing to do with it, saying that the aquarium would be privately owned and operated and that the operator of the new aquarium would not continue to keep red-eared sliders.

JAVA is against breeding animals that live in the wild, including zoos and aquarium, but we believe that it is the minimum responsibility to take maximum care of the ecology and habits of the animals once they are bred, and to keep them in a facility that considers the welfare of the animals and takes responsibility until the end. The decision not to continue to keep them after the reopening has already been made, and although it is a very tough situation, JAVA is calling on its supporters to make their voices heard to Kobe City and Sumasui.



“Cat and Dog Care and Management Standards” establishing cage size or the number of times to give birth for a cat and a dog in a lifetime came into effect

The standards apply to all animal handling business

In accordance with the revision of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals, a new ministerial ordinance was created to set forth the standards for animal care and management to be observed by the animal handling business. Among the ordinances, the standards that specify the care and management of cats and dogs (hereinafter referred to as “Cat & Dog Care and Management Standards”) have attracted a great deal of attention because it specifically includes the size of cages for cats and dogs, the maximum number of cats and dogs to be kept and cared for by each employee, and the number of births in a lifetime.



JAVA, together with the Animal Rights Center Japan and PEACE, which is jointly working on the revision of the Act, believes that it is essential to tighten the standards in order to eliminate the malicious animal handlers as much as possible. Therefore, we have continued to work on to the coalition of diet members for zero disposal of dogs and cats.

On April 1, the ministerial ordinance including the stipulation of the standards for cat and dog care and management to be observed by the animal handling business was issued.

Unfortunately, the opinions of the three groups were not fully reflected in the new standards, but even the new “Cat and Dog Care and Managements Standards” as they are, will help improve the environment for keeping cats and dogs if they are properly implemented.

Outline of this Cat and Dog Care and Management Standards

[Standards for the size of cage and management facilities]

- **The space for exercise is secured separately (Separate type cage)**

Dog: length (more than twice the body length) X width (more than 1.5 times the body width) X height (more than twice the body height)

Cat: length (more than twice the body length) X width (more than 1.5 times the body width) X height (more than three times the body height), one or more shelves and must make more than two structures

- In the case of plural breeding: total area of the above-mentioned space for each animal and the above-mentioned height for the animal with the tallest body height must be secured.
- The space for exercise: secure the same or more space as the following integrated rearing system.

- **Exercise space is included (Integrated rearing system)**

Dog: floor space (more than six times the size of the separate type cage size) X height (more than twice the body height)

- In the case of plural breeding: floor space (more than three times the size of separate type cage X number of dogs) and height (more than twice the height of the tallest dog) must be secured.

Cat: floor space (more than twice the size of the separate type cage size) X height (more than four times the body height), two or more shelves and must make more than three structures

- In the case of plural breeding: floor space (more than the space of the separate type cage size X number of cats) and height (more than four times the height of the tallest cat) must be secured.

[Standards for maximum number of cats and dogs to be cared for by each employee]

Dog: maximum 20 dogs per person (maximum 15 dogs out of the 20 can be used for breeding)

Cat: maximum 30 cats per person (maximum 25 cats out of 30 cats can be used for breeding)

- The number does not include puppies or kittens living together with their mothers are not included in the head count.
- The number of upper limit is determined separately when one person keeps both cats and dogs at the same time.

[Standards for breeding methods]

Dog: Females can have up to six lifetime births and they must be no older than six years old at the time of mating. However, if it is proved that the number of giving birth is less than six times in a lifetime when a dog reached seven years old, the age at the time of the mating is seven years or younger.

Cat: The age of a female cat at the time of mating must be six years or younger. But if it is proved that the number of giving birth is less than ten times in a lifetime when a cat reached seven years old, the age at the time of the mating is seven years or younger.

- C-section must be performed by a veterinarian.
- Obtain a birth certificate and a medical certificate from a veterinarian regarding the mother's condition and suitability for future breeding and keep them for five years.

We requested for creating “Care and Management Standards” for animals other than cats and dogs.

The newly formulated ordinance covers “animals” handled by animal handling business. This means that mammals other than cats and dogs, birds, and reptiles are all covered. However, up until now, the focus of consideration and discussion has been only on cats and dogs. For this reason, the three groups have appealed to the Ministry of the Environment to establish proper standards for mammals other than cats and dogs, birds and reptiles. The Ministry announced that it would proceed to consider standards for them.

Consumer Affairs Agency, government of Japan replied at the Diet “Animal testing is not required” for FOSHU (Food for Specified Health Uses), and FFC (Foods with Functional Claims)

On December 2, 2020, at the National Diet of Japan’s committee on Consumer Affairs, Diet member Ms. Mizuho Fukushima (Former Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety) took questions in response to a request from JAVA, and elicited the government’s view that animal testing for FOSHU and FFC is not mandatory.



Is animal testing required for food?

FOSHU and FFC, which are often seen in commercials, are now the most glamorous area of development in the food industry. Both are food categories that are allowed to be labeled with “nutritional functions”. While “FOSHU” needs application for permission by Consumer Affairs Agency, FFC is manufactured and sold after notification to the government under the responsibility of the business operator. If the product is designed using eating experience and human test data, there is no need to conduct animal testing. However, when developing a product using little eating experience or no data on humans, animal experiments have been required to clarify its functionality and safety.

Animal testing is not mandatory

“We will totally ban animal testing for food and beverages by the end of 2021,” announced Asahi Group Holdings, Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as “Asahi Group”) in July 2020. But at the beginning of 2020, Asahi Group was saying “We will continue animal testing as explicitly required by law” when JAVA began its work. This was because they were trying to leave the way open for the development of novel products. However, in June, when JAVA contacted the Consumer Affairs Agency, which is in charge of FOSHU and FFC through Ms. Fukushima, it became clear that if the safety and functionality of food to be submitted to the Consumer Affairs Agency is proved based on solid scientific evidence, animal testing is not required. In other words, the method to prove the safety and functionality of food is not necessarily animal testing. The following month, Asahi Group decided to ban animal testing altogether, breaking Asahi from their conventional scheme that animal testing is necessary because it is legally mandated and therefore unavoidable. (See <https://www.java-animal.org/asahi2020-English/> for more information on the process.)



Ms. Mizuho Fukushima

Ms. Fukushima reiterated about this at the Diet, and Consumer Affairs Agency answered “It is not necessarily obligatory to conduct animal testing, and if they can show evidence that there is no problem in humans, you can apply for permission or submit a notification without conducting animal testing”. “Even if additional scientific evidence is required in the course of the government's examination, it is not mandatory to conduct animal testing, but only if the content is sufficient as scientific evidence”. And what the Consumer Affairs Agency replied will be recorded in the minutes as a government’s view.

Consumer Affairs Agency: “Promoting and thoroughly enforcing the 3Rs”

During the questioning, Ms. Fukushima appealed to the Consumer Affairs Agency, which does not have animal testing facilities but is involved in approval applications that are likely to involve animal testing that the 3Rs must be pushed further. It was also a big step for us to get an answer from the Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety saying “We will take your point of view into consideration and make our best efforts”.



Mr. Shinji Inoue

Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety

Report on the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments (Online conference) November 12th & 13th, 2020

The 33rd Annual Meeting was held online due to the influence of the new coronavirus. The theme of the meeting was “Beyond COVID-19 to the Future of 3Rs”.

Symposium directly linked to COVID-19

Of the three symposiums held, “Forefront of Antiviral Drug/Vaccine Development— How will alternative methods for animal experiments face COVID-19? —” was interesting because it was related to COVID-19.

Dr. Koji Ishii, Department of Quality Assurance and Radiological Protection, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, stated in the presentation of “Animal testing for quality assurance of vaccines: implementing replacement, reduction and refinement (3R)” as follows. “For quality control of biopharmaceuticals such as vaccines, many animal testing have been conducted so far. However, animal testing should be reduced as much as possible. There is an urgent need in the field of vaccine quality control to shift to alternative methods of

animal testing in vaccine production and lot release (national certification system for each lot) and to promote international harmonization of regulatory requirements.”

According to Dr. Ishii, efforts are being made to switch to various alternative methods in this field as well, and one of the most important projects is “Vac2Vac (vaccine batch to vaccine batch comparison by consistency testing)”. It aims to ensure consistency with batches that have already proven to be safe and effective historically or clinically through animal-free testing. Vaccine manufacturers, academic institutions, national control laboratories and regulatory authorities, and all other stakeholders are involved in the effort.

Furthermore, Dr. Ishii said, “Reducing animal testing in vaccine quality control is not only important from an animal welfare perspective, but it will also enable us to reduce the time it takes to supply vaccines to the market, increase production volumes, and reduce production costs.” He also stated, “In 3Rs, Reduction and Refinement are intermediate goals for improving test quality and promoting animal welfare, and do not completely solve the problems of animal testing. The ultimate goal is replacement.” This comment seemed to aim in the same direction as JAVA.

Dr. Koichi Watashi of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases Department of Virology II, who has not conducted any animal experiments in his research, presented a study aimed at promptly proposing therapeutic drug candidates for COVID-19. He explained, “While new drugs have the advantage of being able to produce highly effective drugs and breakthrough new drugs, they also have the disadvantage of being time consuming and expensive.” In addition to cell culture-based infection assay, this study utilizes in silico docking simulation, in vitro enzymatic assay, and mathematical model analysis. In other words, the purpose is to identify candidate compounds using animal-free methods, evaluate their clinical efficacy, and find novel coronavirus growth inhibitors from approved drugs. It is said that drug candidates can be proposed in a relatively short term, and that clinical trials are being conducted on patients with COVID-19 for the anti-HIV drug nelfinavir (NFV).

Further development of alternative methods in the medical field

The history of fighting infectious diseases has been repeated many times, and new infectious diseases will appear after COVID-19. Then, the development of vaccines and therapeutic agents will be done again, and many animals will be sacrificed each time. Alternative methods in the medical field must be further developed for rapid drug development as well as for animals. Expectations for the Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments are increasing more and more.



Fur Free Alliance (FFA) is an international coalition of more than 50 animal protection organizations working collaboratively to eliminate fur trading. JAVA is also a member of this coalition. Here are some good news related to FFA.

Hungary bans mink, fox, polecat and coypu fur farming!

On November 24, 2020, the decision was made to ban these fur farms as a result of increased concerns on animal welfare and public health risks following the outbreak of COVID-19 on mink fur farms across the globe. These species are currently not bred in Hungary, but the prohibition is meant to prevent fur farmers from moving operations here. Thanks to our Hungarian member Magyar Szőrmeellenes Liga for their excellent work exposing the negative impact of fur farming.

Source

<https://www.facebook.com/FurFreeAlliance/photos/a.324664974610953/999676697109774/?type=3&theater>

New Fur Free Brands

■ adidas

FFA's Fur Free Retailer program is an international initiative run in more than 25 countries, including Japan, to approve retailers that have submitted a Fur Free Retailer statement of assurance to FFA as Fur Free Retailers. JAVA is the contact agency for this program in Japan.

On February 17, 2021, adidas, a major sportswear company, became the 1500th Fur Free Retailer! While adidas has already stopped selling products made of animal fur, it has pledged to permanently renounce fur.



Source

<https://www.facebook.com/FurFreeAlliance/photos/a.324664974610953/1050430225367754/?type=3&theater>

■ Alexander McQueen and Balenciaga

On March 30, 2021, Alexander McQueen and Balenciaga announced their fur-free policies. These two brands are owned by Kering, which owns luxury brands such as GUCCI and Saint Laurent. GUCCI is already a part of the Fur Free Retailer program and is no longer using fur. The announcement was made in Kering's 2020 Universal Registration document.

Source

<https://furfreeretailer.com/blog/2021/03/30/alexander-mcqueen-and-balenciaga-go-fur-free/>

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.106 carries the following six articles. The six articles were translated in Japanese to share them with the readers.

You can read the original articles appeared in JAVA NEWS No.106 at the URL below:

LIGHT-UP STUDY ON MACAQUES, THE COUNCIL OF STATE HAS DECIDED: MACAQUE EXPERIMENTS ARE RESUMED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARMA.

ACCEPTED ONLY THE REMARK ON THE REPORTS ON ANIMAL SUFFERING (LAV)

https://www.lav.it/cpanelav/js/ckeditor/kcfinder/upload/files/files/Press%20release_29.01.2021%281%29.pdf

Cruel botox tests finally on the decrease in Ireland but progress remains too slow (Cruelty Free Europe)

<https://crueltyfreeeurope.org/what-we-do/latest-news-and-updates/cruel-botox-tests-finally-decrease-ireland-progress-remains-too>

Doctors Congratulate Tuskegee University on Ending Lethal Dog Use, Urge Auburn to Follow Suit (PCRM)

<https://www.pcrm.org/news/news-releases/doctors-congratulate-tuskegee-university-ending-lethal-dog-use-urge-auburn>

Board of Appeal rules against EU Chemicals Agency in case involving thousands of animals (Cruelty Free Europe)

<https://crueltyfreeeurope.org/board-appeal-rules-against-eu-chemicals-agency-case-involving-thousands-animals>

Patents on genetically engineered apes are no longer valid (Cruelty Free Europe)

<https://www.crueltyfreeeurope.org/what-we-do/latest-news-and-updates/patents-genetically-engineered-apes-are-no-longer-valid-0>

Victory! USDA Restores Animal Welfare Documents (PCRM)

https://pcrm.widen.net/view/pdf/qr8yusjpj0/2020-No.4-Autumn-Good-Medicine?t.download=true&x.share=true&x.portal_shortcode_generated=vfv1ozlu&x.app=portals

Received a response from European Commission to the letter requesting “Promotion of animal welfare referred in EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)”

We reported in JAVA NEWS No.105 that we have submitted a written request “A Call to Do More for Animals in the context of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement”, to both European Commission and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan in the joint names of the three groups; JAVA, Animal Rights Center Japan, and Eurogroup for Animals that is a Belgian animal protection group in July 2020.

In response to that, we received a reply dated October 22nd under joint signature of Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President of the European Commission, and Ms. Stella Kyriakides, a member of the European Commission.

In the reply they expressed their positive attitude towards the promotion of animal welfare in the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement that we requested.

They replied as follows:

- We agree that increased cooperation on animal welfare should also be part of EU-Japanese cooperation.
- In your letter you suggest the welfare of laying hens and broilers as topics of particular interest. As you know, the Commission and EU Member States have made substantial efforts, through specific legislation, to increase the welfare of these animals.

We therefore acknowledge that these could be relevant issues. However, as befits the cooperative nature of our relations, this must be decided on a consensual basis with our Japanese partners.

- The Commission has already reached out to Japan to discuss modalities for establishing an animal welfare working group and will continue exploring the opportunity for enhancing cooperation on animal welfare in one of the forthcoming EPA meetings.
- We assure you that the Commission remains committed to bringing about positive change in the area of animal welfare.

On the contrary, there is no reply from Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan. We will continue lobbying to the European Commission and to Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.



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