

JAVA NEWS No.107 English ver.

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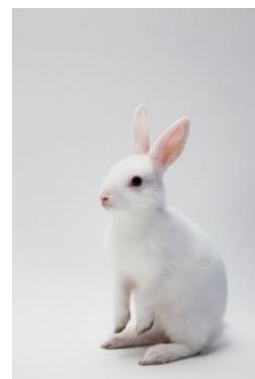
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Good News!

Hair coloring company Hoyu abolishes animal testing

Cruelty Free Beauty for Animals (CFB) Campaign committee, consisting of JAVA, PEACE, and Animal Rights Center Japan, has been negotiating with Hoyu Co., Ltd., a major manufacturer and seller of hair color products, to abolish animal testing.

As a result, Hoyu informed the committee that they posted on their website that they will no longer conduct animal testing on cosmetics (including quasi-drugs/ hair color belongs to the quasi-drugs category under Japanese law) . In response, JAVA is pleased to announce that Hoyu has discontinued animal testing of its cosmetics (including quasi-drugs) as of June 15, 2021.



Hoyu Science Foundation has a policy of not funding animal testing

In June 2020, Hoyu Science Foundation established by the Company in 2014 decided not to select or fund research involving animal testing for applications in the field of cosmetics and quasi-drugs. This condition has been applied from the 2021 call for research grants.

It is expected that not only will companies abolish animal testing, but also that this trend will spread to foundations and other organizations whose purpose is to provide research grants.

Request to the State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) to abolish the poisoning of dogs with strychnine nitrate

On July 13, 2021, JAVA met with Ms. Junko Mihara, State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, and requested that the “Ordinance for Enforcement of the Rabies Prevention Act” be amended so that the poison “strychnine nitrate”, which is designated as the chemical used to kill dogs in case of rabies outbreaks, be replaced with an anesthetic that is as painless as possible.

Although we want to eliminate killing dogs with chemicals completely, currently killing by chemicals is a mandatory measure to be taken in an emergency of rabies outbreak that cannot be cured. Therefore, the most important thing we must do immediately is to improve the measure to be as painless as possible.

(from left) Director of JAVA Iyo Ishijima, State Minister of MHLW Ms. Junko Mihara and Head of the Secretariat of JAVA Satoko Wazaki



“Strychnine nitrate” is designated by law

The Rabies Prevention Act stipulates that the dogs can be killed with chemicals in case of an urgent need to prevent or eradicate the spread of rabies and when it is extremely difficult to detain dogs.

The “Ordinance for Enforcement of the Rabies Prevention Act” designates “strychnine nitrate” as the chemical to be used to kill dogs.

In Japan, the rabies in dogs has not occurred since 1956, but there is still a risk that rabies may occur in the future. Possibility of using strychnine nitrate cannot be denied as long as it is designated as the chemical to kill dogs in case of rabies outbreaks.

The use of strychnine nitrate is very cruel

Killing dogs with strychnine nitrate is a cruel method of inflicting great pain on dogs, causing severe convulsions that make the whole body to arch and breathing difficulties. Even if it is an emergency situation where rabies has occurred and killing is unavoidable, it should not be done in such a cruel way and it is the duty of human beings to take painless methods for dogs.

For this reason, JAVA has requested the State Minister Mihara to make the following amendments to the “Ordinance for Enforcement of the Rabies Prevention Act”.

1. Delete the description that stipulates to use strychnine nitrate to kill dogs.
2. In case of killing dogs with chemicals, appropriate anesthetics should be used and the method should be as painless as possible.

State Minister Mihara said, “I will consider it positively”

JAVA has informed the State Minister Mihara that in addition to how cruel it is to kill dogs with strychnine nitrate, its use is problematic in terms of the provisions of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals, the actual situation of local governments and also internationally. We then strongly urged that the designation of strychnine nitrate, which has been in place for over 60 years, be reviewed and abolished. (Refer to “Problems with using strychnine nitrate” below)

State Minister Mihara said, “I share the same feelings of animal welfare with you but I need to listen to the opinions of experts regarding your request.” However, she said that she would consider it positively.

Problems with using strychnine nitrate

Using strychnine nitrate to kill dogs is against the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals and the related guidelines

Article 40 of the Act stipulates that “In the case where an animal must be destroyed, a method that minimizes the pain and distress of dogs as much as possible shall be used”. And the explanation of “Standards relating to the Method of Destruction of Animals”, formulated based on the Act, says that “the chemical such as strychnine nitrate should not be used.”

For the above reasons, it can be said that destruction with strychnine nitrate is against the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals.

Local governments are making efforts to avoid the use of strychnine nitrate

JAVA conducted a questionnaire survey on 127 local governments in February 2019 in order to understand the actual situation of chemical killing of dogs in local governments under the Rabies Prevention Law.

As a result, the following facts were found.

- All local governments have either never used Strychnine nitrate or have not used it for quite some time and are not sure when they last used it.
- Currently only 46 local governments have strychnine nitrate in their possession.
- 13 local governments have adopted regulations or guidelines allowing the use of chemicals other than strychnine nitrate in the killing process, in an effort to make the killing as painless as possible.
- When asked what they thought about the use of strychnine nitrate to kill dogs, 61 local governments thought that strychnine nitrate is not an appropriate method of killing dogs and other chemicals should be used/other chemicals are preferable. At the same time 44 local governments thought that strychnine nitrate has to be used because it is required by law.

These results show how important it is to amend the Rabies Prevention Act.

Killing dogs with strychnine nitrate is against international standards

■ Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health)

The Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the OIE, “STRAY DOG POPULATION CONTROL -VOLUME I SECTION 7, CHAPTER 7.7” describes strychnine nitrate as an unacceptable method of euthanasia in terms of animal welfare. Since Japan is a member of the OIE, we think that we should comply with Animal Health code.

■ AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals

Strychnine is listed as an “UNACCEPTABLE AGENTS” in the “AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 Edition”, which is published by the American Veterinary Medical Association which is highly respected not only in U.S. but internationally.

In France, the use of strychnine nitrate in agriculture, including the use on rodents, has been completely banned by a ministerial decree of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries dated April 15, 1999. (NOR: AGRG9900868A).

In Japan, where poisoning with strychnine nitrate is still officially recognized, and where the use of the chemical is required by law, the country is clearly lagging behind the international trend. In fact, no local government uses strychnine nitrate and this situation should be remedied as soon as possible.



Implementation status of “education and training on animal experiments” at national universities in the Tokyo metropolitan area

The Act on Welfare and Management of Animals incorporates the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) philosophy of animal experiments. In addition, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology’s “Fundamental Guidelines for Proper Conduct of Animal Experiment and Related Activities in Academic Research Institutions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology” states that, “The director of the academic research institution shall ensure that education and training are provided to animal experiment researchers and workers who engage in the rearing and maintenance of laboratory animals (“animal experiment researchers and workers” hereinafter), with the aim of guaranteeing that animal experiment researchers and workers shall acquire the basic knowledge required for the proper conduct of animal experiments and other activities, and for the proper rearing and maintenance of laboratory animals. The director shall also implement any other necessary measures to improve the level of skills and professionalism of animal experiment researchers and workers.”

Furthermore, in the guidelines established under the revised Act on Welfare and Management of Animals which came into effect in June 2019, it is stated that the national government shall promote the dissemination and compliance to the 3Rs and the Standards relating to the Care and Keeping and Reducing Pain of Laboratory Animals.

Therefore, although education and training does not directly lead to the reduction nor the elimination of animal experiments, in May 2021, JAVA sent an open letter to twenty-one national universities in the metropolitan area to inquire about the current status of their education and training on animal experiments.

Definition of “education and training related to animal experiments”

Here, we define “education and training related to animal experiments” as education and training regarding the implementation of classes, practical training, research using living animals (hereinafter referred to as “animal experiments”) and the handling of experimental animals which includes the following contents:

- Related laws and regulations, rules and regulations established by the university, implementation systems, etc.
- Matters related to the method of animal testing
- Matters related to the rearing and maintenance of laboratory animals
- Matters related to safety assurance and safety management
- Procedures and Precautions for the implementation of animal experiments, etc.
- Matters related to animal welfare and ethics of animal experiments
- Matters related to disaster response

Results

All universities that replied that they are conducting animal experiments in response to our inquiry stated that, they are providing education and training related to animal experiments that all faculty, staff and students who handle animals are mandated to attend. These universities have been continuing to provide these education and trainings in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic by utilizing methods such as on-line courses and so forth. We also found that each university had devised its own method of checking whether faculty, staff and students had attended the course. In addition, faculty, staff and students who do not handle animals are also able to attend these education and trainings if they wish. It goes without saying that it is more desirable to have the knowledge of animal testing laws and animal welfare be shared with all university personnel.

However, three universities (Tsukuba University of Technology, The University of Tokyo, and Ochanomizu University) refused to respond to JAVA's inquiry. It is outrageous that national universities refused to answer. The fact that these universities do not respond to JAVA's inquiries makes us wonder if they have something to hide.

<Continued>

Red-eared sliders from Sumasui are transferred to Another Zoo

In the previous issue of JAVA NEWS No.106, we reported a number of shocking facts about Mississippi Red-eared sliders kept by Suma Aqua life Park Kobe (nicknamed Sumasui). This is a continuation about one of the shocking facts that “After the renewal, the aquarium will abandon red-eared sliders in 2024”.

As of December 2020, when Sumasui said that it was considering transferring to other zoos and institutions, there was no fixed destination, but in June 2021, Sumasui revealed to JAVA that it had transferred in March to a private zoo in Shizuoka Prefecture all 164 individuals that it kept. In addition, transfer destinations for all of the reptiles, amphibians, and freshwater fish except the red-eared sliders that will not be kept by Sumasui continuously were found.

JAVA is opposed to keeping of animals living in the wild in zoos and aquariums. However, once we start taking care of animals, we believe that it is the minimum responsibility of human beings to keep the animals properly and responsibly for their whole life in a facility that pays utmost considerations to their ecology,

habitats and animal welfare. We must not overcrowd the animals, kill them, provide them for animal experiments or abandon them.

In this news we picked up the reality of Sumasui, hoping that it will give you a good chance to think about zoos and aquariums once again.



Request to include Animal Welfare in “OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises”



The “Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises” formulated by OECD recommend that multinational enterprises in OECD countries, including Japan, and the countries participating in the guidelines, voluntarily adopt the responsible behavior expected of companies.

The guidelines are not legally binding but provide principles and standards for responsible business conduct across a range of fields, including human rights, employment, environment, consumer interests, science and technology, etc.

Because the guidelines have been revised five times so far, and 10 years have passed since the latest revision in 2011, it is time to be revised again. On this occasion of this review, the guidelines should include animal welfare, which is being promoted and has come to be included in the law in countries around the world.

Therefore, in March 2021, JAVA sent a request letter in joint name with Animal Rights Center Japan to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting that the Japanese government support the inclusion of animal welfare in the guidelines for the following reasons:

- Animal welfare is strongly linked to several challenges the planet is facing at the moment, such as the spread of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and the climate and biodiversity crises, as can be seen from the case of industrial livestock farming.
- Companies around the world are beginning to incorporate animal welfare of livestock animals. The omission of animal welfare in the OECD guidelines has caused significant fragmentation in the understanding of animal welfare across regions and sectors, making it more complicated for MNEs to fulfil their responsibilities towards animal welfare.
- Both the animal welfare of livestock animals and experimental animals are far behind in Japan, and it is necessary to consider animal welfare from a broad perspective. Failure to do so could leave the industry itself behind the global trends.
- Therefore, integrating animal welfare in OECD guidelines can thus have an impressive impact on animal welfare, human welfare and the environment worldwide, reflecting the “One Welfare” principle of interdependent animal, planetary and human well-being.
- It can also support companies that have already adopted progressive policies, while encouraging others to follow. In addition, it would also respond to citizens’ expectations in the field.

Photo: Latvian Foreign Ministry

JAVA get interviewed by many students

Every year, JAVA receives requests from many elementary, junior, senior high school students, and university students to explain animal experiments. JAVA accepts interviews and goes off to schools to give lectures. This year, JAVA took nearly 10 interviews even during the summer. JAVA answered various questions online, by phone or email from students who delve into animal experiments for summer research assignments, or a project at a school festival, or research papers in class, with the theme “the real state of animal experiments” “how to stop animal experiments” or “about cosmetics that have not been tested on animals” and so on. Also, in June, seven students and one teacher visited the secretariat from the high school to hear about problems with animals and JAVA’s activities.

The survey results of animal experiments compiled by the students after interviewing JAVA will be presented at school classes and events. It will be conveyed to more people through the presentation.



Thank-you letters from high school students who visited JAVA

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.107 carries the following five articles. The five articles were translated into Japanese to share with the readers.

You can read the original articles appeared in JAVA NEWS No.107 at the URLs below:

[Suez Canal Blockage Highlights Plight of Farm Animals at Sea \(AWI\)](#)

[Physicians Committee Joins Coalition To Protect Octopuses in Labs \(PCRM\)](#)

[Pyrogen test on rabbits to be phased out in 5 years \(Ärzte gegen Tierversuche e.V. \[Doctors Against Animal Experiments\]\)](#)

[3 MACAQUES RELEASED FROM THE LABS OF VERONA UNIVERSITY, NOW TAKEN CARE BY LAV! \(LAV\)](#)

[Veterans, Billboards Urge Naval Medical Center Portsmouth to End Animal Use for Medical Training \(PCRM\)](#)

FFA presented 'Stop Deadly Fur' petition

As a member of the Fur Free Alliance (FFA), JAVA has called on Japanese people to support the petition "Stop Deadly Fur" for a ban on fur farms in all countries. This signature has been collected by FFA.

This signature, addressed to the G20 (Group of Twenty) leaders, has been endorsed by 880,457 people worldwide, and FFA handed over it to the Italy's G20 delegation on October 19th to coincide with the G20 Summit in Rome at the end of October. Thank you for your cooperation.



Cases of mink on fur farms infected with the coronavirus have been identified in over 440 farms in Europe and North America. Not only that but the rise in public opinion against fur is the reason why we decided to collect this signature.

Prior to submitting the signature, the FFA members of each country sent letters to their leaders or Ministers of Agriculture, asking them to discuss the need to eliminate fur farming when the debate about COVID-19 at the G20 Summit, as one of the strategies needed to end the pandemic of this infection.

JAVA also sent a request to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Minister of the Environment, jointly with Animal Rights Center Japan which is also a member of FFA and has collaborated to call for this signature.

* This information is as of 20 October 2021.

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