

# JAVA NEWS No.111 English ver.

This “JAVA NEWS No.111 English ver.” is a summary of JAVA NEWS No.111 published in Japanese on October 27 2023.



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## Kagawa Nutrition University and Its Junior College quitted anatomy practice of fattened rats

In the spring of 2022, students at the Junior College of Kagawa Nutrition University made a whistle-blowing report to JAVA that there is a practical training in the second semester of the first year in which rats are fattened on purpose and then dissected and killed, and that it is a mandatory practice and some students have suffered mental breakdown due to the cruelty of the practice. We also found out that similar practical training is also conducted at Kagawa Nutrition University.

### **Problems with the practice and the University's system**

The practice is repeated year after year to feed rats different diets of varying nutritional value, with the goal of learning apparent things such as the effects of these differences on their organs and the structure of the rat's body, and to end up killing those rats.

Not only did this University not switch to alternative methods, but there was no entry field in the Animal experiment protocol for the consideration of alternative methods, and no 3Rs efforts were made. The fact that such experiments were approved is evidence that the Animal experiment ethics committee at this University is not functioning.

### **Request to the University and the first response**

In June 2022, JAVA submitted a written request to the University President as follows, pointing out the problems with dissection and other practices that sacrifice animals;

1. To abolish the practice of "fattening and dissecting rats" at both the University and Junior College.
2. To abolish experiments and practical training involving the sacrifice of animals conducted in other curricula.

In August of the same year, the response received from the University did not meet JAVA's request. However, the University acknowledged the points that needed to be improved, such as the fact that the animal experiment protocol pointed out by JAVA did not include a form for the consideration of alternative methods and that the process of consideration of alternative methods could not be confirmed, and stated that it would "strengthen the system to ensure thorough implementation of 3Rs, such as consideration of alternative methods".

The response also stated, "We will take heed of students' complaints of emotional distress caused by animal experiments" and "We will work to ensure that 3Rs are thoroughly implemented throughout the University, from the point of scientific and educational perspectives, animal welfare, and safety assurance perspectives".

### **The decision was made to quit rat dissection!**

However, this will not change the situation where animals will continue to be the victims of practical training. And also, "students complaining of emotional distress due to animal experiments" will not disappear. This is

a completely unsatisfactory answer.

During the summer and winter of 2022, “fattening and dissecting rats” training was conducted in totally four classes of the first-year students of the Junior College, and JAVA strongly protested against it. After continued efforts to have the practice stopped, JAVA received a written response from the University in July 2023, stating that “we have discontinued the practice of fattening and dissecting rats, and have switched to a method of watching videos of the dissection process”!

Moreover, the University explained that the following other improvements were also made:

- As a consideration for students, we did not force students who felt burdened to watch dissection videos, but adapted a learning method from documents.
- In September 2022, we reviewed the Animal experiment protocol and changed it to a form that confirms the process of considering alternative methods and methods of reducing or eliminating animal suffering.
- In March 2023, we reviewed the Animal experiment management regulations to specify that alternative methods should be fully considered, and established a system to ensure thorough implementation of 3Rs.

Although not all animal experiments at Kagawa Nutrition University and its Junior College have been abolished, the fact that anatomy practice of fattened rats, which had been conducted for many years, has been eliminated is a big step forward. We will continue our efforts to promote education that does not involve the sacrifice of animals, even though it may be a slow and steady process.



## What JAVA demands in the next revision of the Animal Welfare Act

It has been three years since the revised “Act on Welfare and Management of Animals” (hereinafter referred to as the “the Animal Welfare Act”) came into effect in June 2020. It is stipulated that the law will be reviewed five years after its enforcement, and the “The coalition of diet members for zero disposal of dogs and cats”, which is made up of bipartisan Diet members who have played a significant role in amending this law, has already begun considering the next revision. JAVA participates in the deliberations and discussions of this parliamentary group as a member of the advisory board of the Animal Welfare Act revision project team.

As with the previous revision, JAVA will work together with the protection organizations “Animal Rights Center Japan” and “PEACE” to carry out activities for the revision. Immediately, JAVA and other two organizations submitted a request for revision to the coalition, focusing on the points that remained unfulfilled in the previous revision.



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### Amendments requested by JAVA

There are many parts of the law that JAVA requires revision, but we have listed only the main requests here.

#### ◆ Change the Animal Welfare Act to strengthen animal welfare

1. Add animal welfare guarantees to the Purpose of the law.
2. Include all of the Five Freedoms for Animals in the Fundamental Principle.

#### ◆ Expand target animal species and businesses

1. Strictly control animal handling businesses and widen the range of the subject animals.  
Animals subject to control that are presently limited to mammals, birds, and reptiles must be all vertebrates including amphibians and fish.
2. Add amphibians and fish to protected animals to make it all vertebrates so that penal provisions will be applicable to a person who destroyed, injured, or abandoned them.
3. Expand the scope of the regulation of animal handling businesses to “all businesses that handle live vertebrate animals” to include animal testing facilities, laboratory animal sales, livestock-related businesses, live bait businesses, transporters, etc.
4. Change the animals subject to Restriction on the Breeding from “dogs and cats” to “all vertebrates”.

◆ **Establish new provisions on farm animals that do not exist in the current law to improve the treatment of farm animals**

◆ **Mandate the use of alternative methods to animal testing and ensure 3Rs**

1. Make all 3Rs “obligatory”

Among the 3Rs, the current act states that only the minimization of pain and distress is a “duty of effort”, while the use of alternative methods to animal testing and the reduction of the number of experimental animals provided are “matters to be considered”.

2. Make it mandatory to use alternative methods in case they are available.

3. Make it the responsibility of the government to develop and disseminate alternative methods.

◆ **Establish new provisions for transportation of animals that are not in the current law and create standards for transportation**

◆ **Improve methods when killing animals**

1. The current act only stipulates “by methods that cause as little pain and distress as possible”. Add “as quickly as possible” and “after rendering the animals unconscious”.

2. Through the aforementioned amendment, ban local governments from using carbon dioxide gas alone to kill mammals. (\*Many local governments in Japan still kill dogs and cats with carbon dioxide gas.)

◆ **Clarify penalties**

1. Prohibit acts of violence, overuse, etc., even if they do not result in debilitation or death.

2. Clearly state the definition of abuse in the penalty clause to make it easier to determine abuse.

◆ **Enable protection of abused animals**

1. Allow administrative offices to temporarily take animals from abusers and vicious owners for emergency protection.

2. Ensure that those who kill, abuse, improperly keep, or abandon the animals are never allowed to keep them again.

◆ **Prohibit traveling exhibits and sales by animal handling businesses**

◆ **Change the system of procedures by local governments officials so that malicious animal handling businesses can be eliminated.**

By means of 1-7, make the system allow the administrative offices to carry out procedures against abuse promptly, steadily, and accurately.

1. Require on-site entry and inspection as quickly as possible, but no later than one week after receiving a report of abuse.
2. Upgrade the Ministry of the Environment's "Guidelines for Responses to Animal Abuse, etc." to regulation, and recognize as abuse if any of them applies.
3. Make it mandatory for the administrative offices to make a recommendation to the animal handling businesses when they fail to comply with the standard and order them to take the necessary measures pertaining to the recommendation. (Revise the deadline from within 3 months to within 1 month)
4. In case of violation of the order, change rescission of registration etc. from "may" to "shall", with immediate revocation of registration or suspension of business within three months.
5. Make it mandatory to disclose the name of the animal handling businesses at the time of administrative action of recommendation, order, rescission of registration, or suspension of business. (The current act allows for the publication of those who violate recommendations.)
6. Allow the Ministry of the Environment to give instructions to local governments if they fail to make recommendations and orders within the time limit.
7. Conduct training and examinations by the Ministry of the Environment to strengthen the requirements for local government animal welfare management personnel.

◆ **Implement a white listing system for farmed animals**

Specify which animals are allowed to be kept and which others are not.

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**Revision that JAVA wants to focus on in particular**

Among the above required revisions, JAVA is particularly interested in focusing on items 1 through 3 of "Expand target animal species and businesses" and also "Mandate the use of alternative methods to animal testing and ensure 3Rs". Both of them are included in the Supplementary Provisions, and can be said to be significant issues that could not be realized in the previous amendment.

If items 1 through 3 of "Expand target animal species and businesses" can be realized, it will be possible, for example, to impose regulations on the poor display and sale of frogs and ornamental fish, which are currently unchecked. It is also expected to deter the practice of frog dissection in schools, etc.

If the "Mandate the use of alternative methods to animal testing and ensure 3Rs" are realized, it is expected that the shift to alternative methods will progress and contribute to the reduction of animal testing.

JAVA will continue to do its most utmost to realize the revisions we seek in the following amendments.



**“Red-eared sliders that can no longer be kept should be killed in home freezers”.**  
**Let’s make the Ministry of the Environment remove it from their website!**

“The invasive Alien Species Act” was amended last year. As a result of this revision, “import”, “sale,” and “releasing” of Red-eared sliders and American crayfishes have been banned. However, since they are already being bred in very large numbers, special measures permitted “raising not for sale by individual” and “free transfer between individuals” have been in effect since June 1, 2023, for the time being.



### **The Ministry of the Environment: Created a website offering owners to kill them**

The Ministry of the Environment has created a website to inform the nation about this regulation, “Regulations for Red-eared sliders and American crayfishes have begun on June 1, 2023!” What a surprise on this website page, when you cannot keep Red-eared sliders, it is proposed to kill them in a home freezer as follows.

- If you are unable to keep them for life due to unavoidable circumstances, and if you cannot find a person who is able to keep them despite your best efforts, you have no choice but to kill them.
- In such cases, the living things should be disposed of by an appropriate method that causes as little pain as possible, such as drugging or freezing, by asking someone who can properly deal with them.
- For freezing, it is preferable to use an exclusive freezer. However, if it is unavoidable to use a home freezer, be careful to avoid food poisoning by preventing the food from coming into contact with turtles, and by strictly packaging and disinfecting the food.

\* Underlines are drawn by JAVA.

\* The same is written about American crayfishes.

### **JAVA has repeatedly pointed out the problems of killing by freezing**

Killing by freezing is a ruthless method because of the formation of ice crystals in the animal’s body tissues, which can cause pain and the long time it takes for the death to occur. In the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), “KILLING OF REPTILES FOR THEIR SKINS, MEAT AND OTHER PRODUCTS”, freezing is listed as one of the inappropriate and unacceptable methods of stunning or killing reptiles.

However, the Ministry of the Environment has been saying to make killing by freezing to dispose of Red-eared sliders captured in the outdoors. Against this, PEACE, which is working with JAVA on this issue, has repeatedly pointed out the problems, but the Ministry of the Environment has not changed its policy. The method of killing by freezing that the Ministry of the Environment has shown so far is to do so in a freezer that can be set to minus 20°C or lower, but what they have described on their website is killing by freezing in a home freezer, and since the temperature in a home freezer is even higher, about minus 18°C, the creatures will suffer for more extended period of time. As for American crayfishes, freezing and killing them is likewise cruel, and even leaving them out of water can cause them to struggle, since they cannot breathe if they are neglected in the absence of water in the first place.

### **Request to the Minister to remove from website**

Therefore, in July, JAVA and PEACE submitted a written request to the Minister of the Environment to request the following.

1. Delete from the website the mention that the killing of Red-eared sliders is unavoidable, as well as the specific method of killing. In the case that the sliders cannot be kept for life due to unavoidable circumstances, and then you cannot find a person who is able to keep them, you must first consult with the consultation dial set up by the Ministry of the Environment.
2. The first priority of the consultation dial is to find a way to transfer the Red-eared slider to a person who is able to keep it properly for its entire life. If it is unavoidable and there is no other choice but to kill the animal, the consultant should instruct the owners to have the animal killed with anesthetic at a veterinary clinic.
3. The same handling measures should be taken for American crayfishes as for Red-eared sliders.

### **Why JAVA has no choice but to request a method of killing?**

Especially for Red-eared sliders, which have a long lifespan of more than 30 years and grow to about 30 cm in length of carapace, we suspect that many people will not be able to keep them for life. It is not easy to find new owners. Because of this, we unfortunately have to assume the worst-case scenario, that is the living things will be “killed”. For JAVA, it is not our desire to suggest or request the method of killing, and it is very hard for us to do so. However, if the owners cannot continue to keep the animals no matter how they try, we must at least make the killing process as painless as possible with reluctance, and we must change the situation where the Ministry of Environment introduces and promotes cruel methods such as killing by freezing.

### **The Ministry of the Environment did not delete the description of the killing**

At the end of August, we received a response letter from the Ministry of the Environment with the following content.



- As requested by JAVA, a sentence was added to the website on August 29: “If necessary, please also consult the consultation dial about American crayfishes and Red-eared sliders”.
- Do not delete the statement that killing is unavoidable and the specific method of killing.
- The reason is that we believe it is necessary to explain that “killing is unavoidable” from the viewpoint of “not allowing living things to be released into the outdoors if owners cannot find a person who is able to keep Red-eared sliders and American crayfishes” and of “not creating new people who take the easy way out and irresponsibly start new breeding”.

### **Action to the Ministry of the Environment!**

The response from the Ministry of the Environment is far from agreeable, and JAVA will continue to urge them to take action, but we urge you to send your opinion to the Ministry of the Environment as well.



#### **Ministry of the Environment**

#### **Nature Conservation Bureau Wildlife Division Office for Alien Species Management**

Godochosha No.5, Kasumigaseki 1-2-2, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975, Japan

Representative email address of the Ministry of the Environment: [moe@env.go.jp](mailto:moe@env.go.jp)

\* Please include the subject and your name in the main body of the e-mail.

## **Fur News**

Fur Free Alliance (FFA) is made up of 50 animal protection organizations based in 35 countries around the world, and continues to work together to abolish fur.

JAVA is also a member of this coalition. JAVA NEWS No.111 provides Japanese translations of the following five news items published by FFA.

[\*\*PUMA COMMITS TO A FUR-FREE POLICY\*\*](#)

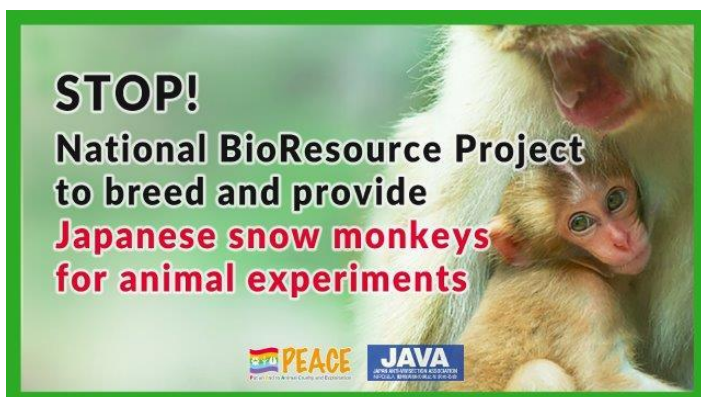
[\*\*INSIDE THE KILLING BOX: CRUELTY EXPOSED ON LITHUANIAN FUR FARMS\*\*](#)

[\*\*BILL TO BAN FUR FARMING IN LITHUANIA PASSED SECOND READING\*\*](#)

[\*\*GLOBAL MINK FUR PRODUCTION HALVED IN TWO YEARS\*\*](#)

[\*\*FUR BANS \(PRODUCTION BANS/SALES BANS\)\*\*](#)

Over 19,000 people have signed the petition calling for the National BioResource Project “Japanese Macaques” to be abolished!



Starting in April 2023, we are asking everyone to help us sign the petition calling on the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to abolish the National BioResource Project “Japanese Macaques” to breed and supply Japanese macaques for animal experiments. As of the end of August 2023, over 19,000 people have supported us, including both online signatures and paper signature

forms. Thank you very much! The deadline for gathering signatures is the end of March 2025, which is a long-term challenge. We appreciate your continued cooperation!

**English version website page:** <https://www.java-animal.org/nbrp-nihonzaru/2023shomei/en/>

**English version signature page (Change.org):** <https://www.change.org/stop-NBRPmonkey-en>

**Notification:** Requests for donations displayed after signing or on the signature page are donations to Change.org, not to JAVA and PEACE. Signing is free. Your signature deserves to change the world.

A portion of sales from cruelty free Thai cosmetics brand will be donated to JAVA

In time for Be Kind to Animal Week starting September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the popular Thai cosmetics brand “SRICHAND” has released a limited number of products designed in collaboration with Hiroki Takeda, a watercolor artist who is attracting worldwide attention. “SRICHAND” is the brand that says it’s not tested on animals.

We have recently received an offer from Japan Functional Cosmetic Laboratory Co., Ltd., the importer and distributor of “SRICHAND”, to donate 10% of the profits from limited products to JAVA.

“SRICHAND” official mail order site (Japanese)

<https://www.cosmelabo.shop/srichand>



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## 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.111 carries the following four articles. The four articles were translated into Japanese to share them with the readers.

You can read the original articles appeared in JAVA NEWS No.111 at the URL below:

[\*\*VICTORY! COSMETICS ANIMAL TESTING AND TRADE NOW BANNED IN CANADA \(CFI\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Sri Lanka will not export macaques to China \(AfA\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Angelo State University Sued After Refusing to Release Records on Animal Research Study \(PCRM\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*“Utterly unacceptable and unlawful”: Ireland’s mistreatment of male calves \(Eurogroup for Animals\)\*\*](#)

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