



December 2, 2004

Ms. Mary Beth Sweetland
Senior Vice President
Director, Research & Investigations Department
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
501 Front Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Mary Beth:

This responds to the three letters we received from Shalin Gala of PETA on November 9 and 16, 2004 concerning studies lams conducted at the University of Georgia and University of Kentucky and the use of FIDO as an alternative to PER studies in chicks.

The purpose of the study at the University of Georgia was to evaluate the beneficial effects that a diet rich in anti-oxidants and fatty acids has on dogs with chronic renal failure. This work provided a foundation for our current canine renal diets. As 12% of all dogs experience chronic renal disease, these diets have had a profound benefit on improving the health and welfare of dogs. Shalin alleges that this study began after the 1999 moratorium that lams placed on terminal dog and cat research. He is incorrect; this study was initiated at the end of 1998, before the moratorium began. Because we continue to receive letters from PETA with questions about studies placed prior to lams 1999 moratorium on the placement of terminal studies, I think it is important to explain again that the moratorium referred only to new studies placed after that date. The moratorium did not apply to any studies that had already been authorized.

The purpose of the study at the University of Kentucky was to better understand the condition of feline hepatic lipidosis (FHL), so that diets could be developed to prevent its occurrence or minimize its deleterious effects. In fact, as Shalin mentions in his letter, the mortality rate for cats with the naturally-occurring condition had approached 90%. Today, dietary treatment of this condition has had a profound benefit on the health and welfare of cats. Due to improved diets such as lams' EVD Maximum Calorie Canine/Feline and other interventions, the mortality rate for this condition, when treated, is now 10%. Shalin's allegation that we failed to enforce our terminal research moratorium for this study is irrelevant, as this was not a terminal study. The causes of death for all the animals Shalin lists were not study-related. In addition, unlike what happens in the naturally-occurring FHL, there is no mortality in the laboratory model.

We appreciate the information Shalin sent on FIDO. We were already aware of this *in vitro* system and have it under review as part of a larger program aimed at reducing the use of chicks in evaluating the digestibility of proteins.

Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara J. Slatt

cc: Mr. Shalin Gala - PETA