



October 11, 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:

I am writing in follow-up to our many conversations over the past several days about the completely unfounded lead story on the PETA website about an lams study with beagles at Auburn University. As of the time of this writing, the article has been removed from the website, though it is still publicized in a broadly distributed letter from PETA's Allison Ezell. I must insist that this false story be immediately removed from all PETA materials, as it erroneously impugns the image and reputation of The lams Company.

As we have discussed by phone, there are several pieces of evidence which directly contradict the "tip" which PETA received from a caller who obviously has her facts mixed up. Here is what you and I both know to be true:

- lams is conducting a research study involving female beagles at Auburn University. The females are mated and then give birth to their pups before both are returned to their guardians. This study does NOT involve geriatric dogs, nor does it utilize anywhere near the number of dogs your "tipster" cites. While I don't know why such specifics were conveyed to PETA, they do not accurately reflect the lams-supported study at Auburn University.

- The lams protocol states: "Upon completion of the study, all dogs (adults and puppies) will be returned to their respective source."

- Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, staff veterinarian at Auburn University School of Veterinary Science confirmed to me by phone on October 8th that the lams protocol was being carried out as written and approved by the University IACUC and that the animals were being returned home at end of study. I can have her contact you directly with this information, if needed.

- Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, the Principal Investigator for this study and Director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Health, confirmed to me by phone on October 8th that the lams protocol was being carried out as written and approved by the University IACUC and that the animals were being returned home at end of study. I can have him contact you directly with this information, if needed.

- As of October 5th, when an lams study monitor visited the study site, all animals were accounted for.

- The ASPCA also did a site visit for this study recently and found everything according to protocol. I can have them contact you directly with this information, if needed.



- I spoke on October 9th with a PETA contact at Auburn whom you had recommended as someone who was on the vet tech "grapevine" and would know if there was anything untoward going on at Auburn with regard to the lams study. This individual confirmed that "if anything were going on, I would know" and stated that he had heard nothing negative about the lams study. I can have him contact you directly with this information, if needed.

- This innovative study design, where animals are "borrowed" for the duration of the study and then returned to their guardians, is exactly the type of study which PETA has long advocated.

In addition, I told you that I have confirmation that several of the dog owners in this study have already had their females and pups returned to them.

To reiterate, the lams study does NOT call for the termination of dogs at end of study. This would be a direct violation of lams public research policy. A prohibition against new terminal studies involving dogs and cats has been a key part of lams policy since 1999. Thus, nothing short of deleting the entire story on your website would be fair, since you now know that your "tip" was false.

It is particularly disappointing to see this allegation appear as the lead story on the PETA website. On the basis of no more than one unfounded allegation, this was published. There was no attempt to confirm this allegation with me or with your other source at Auburn prior to publication on your website and press releases. We have consistently responded truthfully and accurately to every inquiry you have made about lams. Simple principles of fairness and intellectual honesty call for reasonable follow-up to confirm facts before releasing a story such as this one on your website.

I hope you'll post this letter on your website as part of the correspondence you share with all of your members. In addition, it is only fair that Ms. Ezell immediately send a letter to the same distribution list as her first letter, telling them that upon further investigation, the story is not true.

Respectfully,

Barbara J. Slatt

cc: Mr. J. P. Ansell, President-The lams Company  
Mr. Wayne Pacelle, CEO HSUS  
Mr. Ed Sayres, CEO ASPCA