

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2024

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin,

We are writing to obtain additional information regarding the Department of Defense's (DoD) funding of seemingly unnecessary and inhumane experiments on dogs.

An investigation by the watchdog group White Coat Waste Project reported in May 2024 that the DoD recently spent approximately \$949,000 to commission a three-month-long drug toxicity study using beagle dogs.^{1,2} This kind of drug toxicity testing typically involves forcing puppies to ingest large doses of experimental compounds daily for 13 weeks, after which they are killed. With the contract beginning on August 1, 2023, and scheduled to end on July 31, 2024.³

We are concerned by the DoD's use of taxpayer dollars on inhumane dog experiments for human drugs and do not believe it is a prudent use of its resources. In 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stated it, "does not mandate human drugs be studied in dogs."⁴ Independent studies continue to prove that an estimated 90% of animal experiments fail to have promising outcomes and lead to human treatments. With minimal results, the continued implementation of dog experiments proves to be ineffective and an unreliable use of taxpayer funds.

For many years DoD's policy has prohibited the use of dogs and cats for medical or surgical training and weapons development research.⁵ However, it appears the policy has allowed the continued use of dogs in other testing and research in cases where alternatives may now be available. Non-animal methodologies exist, and the department should allocate more resources to create a better future for drug experimentation. These methods are more reliable, economical, and ensure an ethical standard the DoD should uphold.

¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/pentagons-barbaric-drug-testing-dogs-raises-hackles-pet-loving-lawmakers>

² <https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2024/05/28/wcw-exposes-dods-wasteful-and-cruel-1m-beagle-testing/>

³ https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_HT94252310580_97DH

⁴ <https://wjla.com/features/i-team/animals-drug-testing-fda-labs-animals>

⁵ <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/321601p.pdf>

Based on evidence of recent and ongoing DoD-funded testing on dogs and cats, on June 13, 2024, the House of Representatives included a bipartisan amendment that passed by voice vote in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act that prohibits funding for the DoD's dog and cat experiments with a narrow exemption for national security purposes.⁶

Following bipartisan action by Congress, other agencies like the Department of Veterans Affairs are also eliminating the use of dogs in research in favor of alternatives.⁷

Secretary Austin, please provide us with the following information:

1. **Dog testing details:**

- Is the beagle testing ordered under contract number HT94252310580 still underway? If so, when is it scheduled to be completed? If not, when did it end?
- How many beagles have been used in this testing to date? How many more beagles are planned to be used for the completion of this project?
- How many beagles were euthanized? What kind of euthanasia methods were used (Please list all methods)?
- Were the dogs used in this testing debarked?
- What USDA pain category is this testing classified in?

2. **Dog testing justification:** The FDA states that it does not mandate dog testing for human drugs. Did the FDA specifically request that the DoD conduct this 13-week dog test? Did the DoD explore alternatives? Please provide written documentation.

3. **Other DOD dog and cat testing:** Please list all current grants, contracts and other spending for the use of dogs and cats in testing and research and well as those over the past 5 years.

4. **Dog and cat testing alternatives:** Is the DoD allowing animal testing alternatives? If so, please describe any current DoD efforts to promote and adopt animal testing alternatives.

Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to your detailed response.

Sincerely,



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress

⁶ https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/MOSKOW_087_xml240531154120583.pdf (H.Amdt.991 to H.R.8070)

⁷ <https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2024-04-17/veterans-affairs-animal-testing-experiments-dogs-cats-13581219.html>

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Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



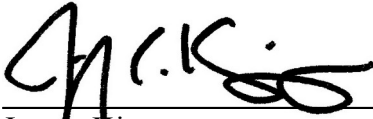
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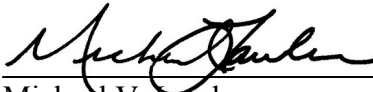
Veronica Escobar
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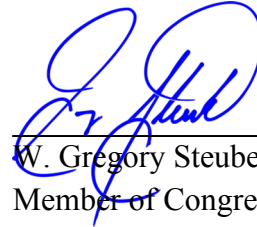
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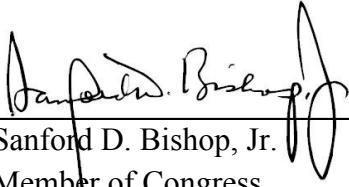
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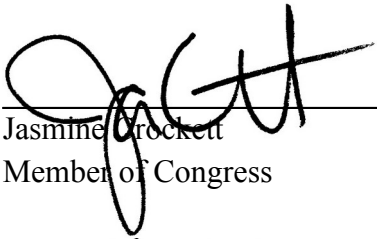
Jared Huffman
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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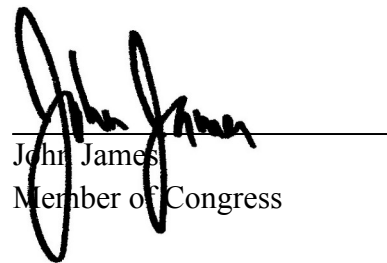
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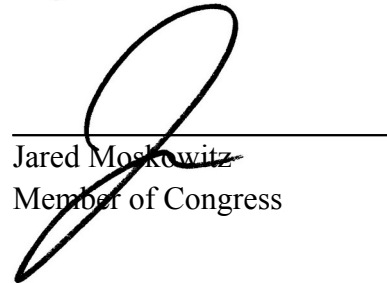
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