

May 13, 2004

Dear HSUS Constituent:

Thank you for your recent correspondence expressing concern about The HSUS's relationship with Iams. We have heard from a number of animal advocates throughout the country, and this feedback is very important to us.

As you have noted, PETA's investigation of animal testing practices at an Iams contract testing laboratory revealed troubling images and information. We are glad to know that Iams ceased its work with this contract laboratory not long after PETA released its finding, and prior to our PetFest collaboration with the company.

Our participation in these events constituted no endorsement of any animal testing protocol conducted by Iams. We have a history of working with and engaging companies to try to move them in the direction of a stronger commitment to animal protection principles. However, we recognize the perception that our collaboration might be construed as an endorsement of Iams practices, and we are sensitive to that perception. In light of that fact, we have ceased our PetFest arrangements with Iams. We have no financial partnerships or arrangements with the company and we have informed the company that we will not resume any partnerships until we are satisfied that its internal and external animal treatment practices are transparent and humane.

In addition, The HSUS sent a letter to Iams president Jeffrey Ansell urging Iams to adopt the following reforms:

- Move rapidly (no later than the end of the year) to end all laboratory animal testing that is conducted to satisfy nutritional adequacy statements for Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) labeling.
- Make representations to the rest of the pet food industry to adopt the same approach to AAFCO labeling requirements.
- Commit immediately to supporting the ultimate elimination of laboratory feeding studies with the greatest possible speed and energy.
- Until laboratory animal tests are eliminated, Iams should take responsibility for the welfare of every dog and cat for the balance of his or her life. This means that every dog and cat should either be adopted out at the end of each study or retired to an appropriate domestic-style setting if the animal is determined to be unsuitable for adoption for behavior reasons. In other words, no dog or cat should be euthanized for reasons of human convenience or cost saving, nor warehoused in an institutional setting.
- Commit to a policy of Zero Tolerance for any pain and distress that might result during a nutrition study and to engage in no studies that might employ techniques that would not be employed in a human out-patient clinic.

- Commit to being a change agent for animal welfare improvements for all dogs and cats whether they are in homes or shelters and to be a leader in the industry on setting new standards for dog and cat welfare.

Iams recently replied to our letter indicating support for all of the demands we enumerated. We will be working with Mr. Ansell and other executives at the company to continue this dialogue and to encourage the company to opt for all home-based, non-invasive, and non-harmful testing methods.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Wayne Pacelle
Chief Executive Officer – Designate