

September 7, 2004

Dear Constituent:

Thank you for contacting The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) regarding our relationship with Iams. We very much appreciate hearing from you on this important matter.

I would first like to emphasize that The HSUS currently has no financial partnerships or arrangements with the Iams company. However, in keeping with our practice of engaging constructively with corporations and other institutions, we have entered into discussions with Iams with the aim of making important changes in its animal treatment practices. These changes include ensuring that no animals experience discomfort, distress or pain as a result of Iams nutrition studies and that the company move as quickly as possible to eliminate any laboratory-based animal testing.

In May 2004, The HSUS contacted Jeffrey Ansell, President of Iams, and formally requested the adoption of the following six reforms:

1. 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.
2. Make representations to the rest of the pet food industry to adopt the same approach to AAFCO labeling requirements.
3. Commit immediately to supporting the ultimate elimination of laboratory feeding studies with the greatest possible speed and energy.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 responded favorably to all of these requests. The company immediately committed to end animal studies solely for AAFCO labeling requirements and has written to AAFCO stating its change in practice. Iams also committed to ensuring the lifetime "destiny" in a home or home-equivalent environment of all the animals in their studies. In addition, Iams has committed to be a leader in promoting the welfare of all dogs and cats especially those in shelters and other non-home environments and to the eventual elimination of animals in nutrition testing. We believe this commitment is a very significant development.

Recently, we have added to the issues enumerated above. Specifically, The HSUS has asked Iams to eliminate any animal testing at its external laboratories within the year. Without compromising the ability to develop new pet foods with health-promoting properties, we are urging Iams to move toward a testing system where the animals on study are companion animals volunteered by their caregivers. After the study, the animals would return home to their own caregivers. In a continuing dialogue with Iams President, Jeffrey Ansell, we have asked Iams not only to commit to this goal but to set a firm date for implementation.

We are also approaching the entire pet food industry to ask that all the other companies in this field adopt research and testing guidelines similar to those established by Iams and also to commit to the phasing out of external contract-based research. This is an important first step toward the ultimate elimination of any laboratory-based tests for pet food research.

The HSUS believes that animal testing, except in the home, cannot be justified simply for pet food production. Dr. Andrew Rowan, executive vice president for operations of The HSUS, currently serves on an international advisory board set up by Iams. He will remain on the advisory board only as long as he sees that Iams is moving forward with its goal of eliminating laboratory-based animal testing.

Again, thank you for contacting The HSUS. We greatly appreciate your commitment to animal protection and look forward to working together to build a humane world. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything else we can do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Pacelle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne Pacelle
President & CEO
The Humane Society of the United States