

June 17, 2014

Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer
Regional Director
USDA – Eastern Region
920 Main Campus Drive
Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606-5210

Dear Dr. Goldentyer:

On behalf of Eleventh Hour for Animals, a grassroots group of community activists with global supporters, I am writing to request an immediate investigation into scientifically fraudulent canine experiments being conducted inside the University of Florida and apparent egregious violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) related to a one dog named Ginger who was finally euthanized on April 3, 2012. Since there are still dozens of dogs being gratuitously made to suffer under the same protocol which governed Ginger, the USDA must view this matter with the utmost urgency

According to the protocol governing this study (which is attached here as a link because of its size: <http://universityofflorida.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/protocol-3064-puppy-torture-conlon.pdf>), Ginger (as well as the other subjects) began this study at one day old. The protocol indicates that Glycogen Storage Disease in humans can cause “enlarged livers” and “severe kidney complications,” and “seizures and even death.” And, of course, they fully expected and intended to visit these horrors upon the puppies in this study in order to validate their premise that these experiments have some value to humans. However, it is evident that not only were the complications and gratuitous injuries endured by Ginger proof that these studies have no bearing whatsoever on the course of Glycogen Storage Disease in humans and are, therefore, fraudulent, but the injuries documented in her necropsy report indicate that those entrusted with her “care” inside UF are incompetent and negligent.

Ginger suffered throughout her life from seizures, vomiting, and was repeatedly having to be revived in ICU. At less than 2 months old, according to her veterinary records that are attached, her body was already limp, she couldn't stand and her head was tilted. The following month, Ginger is “unresponsive after episode of vomiting.” By February of 2011 she is vomiting in her sleep and, again, is “unresponsive.” There is no effort to minimize her pain. Throughout her life, she is repeatedly revived to endure more pain and trauma. This is a violation of the following regulation:

9 C.F.R. § 2.31 (d)(1)(i): Procedures involving animals will avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animals;

As this puppy was made to endure this agony repeatedly for over another full year, and given my contention that this is neither scientifically-valuable nor “research,” this is a clear violation of the following regulation as well. Simply because funding is available to perform these experiments does not make them “scientific” or “valuable.” It appears that the agonies Ginger endured, and the other dogs in this experiment are still enduring, is nothing more than scientific fraud.

9 C.F.R. § 2.31 (e)(4): Discomfort and pain to animals will be limited to that which is

unavoidable for the conduct of scientifically valuable research, including provision for the use of analgesic and anesthetic;

In her necropsy report, Ginger is documented to have had water on the lungs, water on the brain, cirrhosis of the liver, a whole host of additional organ damage, and “vocal severe adhesions of the liver and stomach.” While there is no reason given for her organs having been shredded, it would appear based on the totality of her records, that this was the sole result of gastro tubes and other instrumentation being continually inserted incorrectly by untrained, incompetent, and negligent individuals.

9 C.F.R. § 2.32 (a): It shall be the responsibility of the research facility to ensure that all personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties.

In conclusion, despite the fact that University of Florida laboratory personnel did, in fact, document in horrific detail the extensive injuries and pain that Ginger endured throughout her short life, there is absolutely no explanation or acknowledgement of the gratuitous pain she was forced to endure. In addition, other than suggesting that these horrific experiments are being conducted for the benefit of humans, there is zero proof offered to substantiate this fraudulent claim. The only fact of which we can be certain is that there is a lot of money involved and if it were extracted from the equation, the claims of “science” would immediately cease. That in and of itself is glaring proof that these canine experiments are fraudulent.

Since there are another 37 dogs currently being subjected to the same experiment to which Ginger succumbed, Eleventh Hour for Animals urges the USDA to fully inspect the conditions under which these canines are being kept on an urgent basis and to please ensure that they do not fall victim to the systemic incompetence that has been documented inside UF's primate labs and appears to be running rampant in the canine labs as well.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

Camille A. Marino
Founder & Executive Director
Eleventh Hour for Animals