



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

MAY 30 2012

Mr. Shalin G. Gala
Laboratory Methods Specialist
Laboratory Investigations Department
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
1536 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

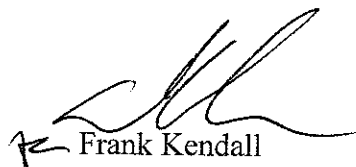
Dear Mr. Gala:

Thank you for your April 18, 2012, letter to the Secretary of Defense that raised concerns regarding the treatment of animals during military combat medic training. I am responding on the Secretary's behalf.

We in the Department of Defense share the view that animals used by the Department in medical training should be treated humanely at all times. Therefore, the concerns expressed in your letter are being taken extremely seriously. The Department's goal is to reduce to an absolute minimum or eliminate the use of live animals in training and to use validated simulation training platforms. However, while we are actively working to refine, reduce, and appropriately replace the use of live animals in medical education and training, until there are validated alternatives, the experience and confidence gained by the use of the live animal model in teaching life-saving procedures remains a viable training method. Combat medic training is of vital importance because the medic is the first responder who provides treatment at the point of wounding. Comprehensive combat medic training is absolutely necessary to prevent significant loss of life of our Nation's Warfighters.

Your interest in this issue is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Frank Kendall