



**American College of  
Laboratory Animal Medicine**

May 24, 2014

Dear

;

We are writing today on behalf of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM), and its task force on research animal transportation. ACLAM is a specialty board founded in 1957, recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) as the certifying organization for laboratory animal medicine and as a recognized specialty within the veterinary medical profession. On behalf of our 907 Active Diplomates responsible for the care and well-being of animals used in research and teaching in the US and abroad, we are asking for your organizations support on an issue that is a threat to research animal health and welfare, and to the future of biomedical research.

The safe, humane, and rapid transportation of research animals is critical to research programs throughout the world. The ability to transport animals to institutions and scientists that need them is a pivotal component of scientific advancement. Unique disease models, genetically modified animals, and professionally produced high quality animals of every species can only be provided to institutions conducting research if there is the ability to transport these animals from one location to another. This transportation depends upon the availability of commercial carriers that have systems, expertise, and the willingness to transport not only general cargo but specialized cargo including laboratory animals. For them, transporting laboratory animals only makes sense if carriage can be done within existing systems using existing personnel that have the appropriate training. Developing alternative systems just for laboratory animals is not practical or economically feasible.

As you may be aware, anti-research groups have targeted various components of the transportation chain in an effort to stop this vital service. Unfortunately, they have been successful in many areas. At this moment, only one commercial airline will transport nonhuman primates for research. A number of other major airlines have refused to carry research dogs, rabbits, and/or rodents. Even when airlines are willing to accept these animals for transport, cargo handlers and transportation facilities have refused to handle or otherwise allow research animals to be transported through their facilities based on pressure from animal protectionists. The problem is not isolated to airlines- even trucking companies and ferry services have been affected. Unfortunately, there is little money to be made for most transportation companies through the handling of

research animals, and they have often succumbed to the pressure from a small handful of activists protesting at their offices and other places of business.

**We are asking your organization to recognize through public statements of support the transportation industry's important role in scientific research as well as the need for such research using animals. Attached are some sample statements offered as examples of how those of us in research can educate the public and demonstrate our backing for the ethical and moral decision of the transportation industry to continue this vital service. One way these statements could be used is in policy or position statements on an organization website. It's important that the transportation industry have the support available to answer their critics as to why they engage in this service.**

It is our request that \_\_\_\_\_ will give this request strong consideration. We have many individuals within ACLAM and other organizations that are collaborating on this effort who would be more than willing to have an in-depth discussion on this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue VandeWoude", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sue VandeWoude, DVM, DACLAM  
ACLAM President