

August 26, 2016

National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892



NIH consideration of certain research proposals involving human-animal chimera models

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking public comments on the proposed scope of certain human-animal chimera research that will be considered internally by an NIH steering committee and on a proposal to amend Section IV and Section V of the NIH Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research.

Dear NIH Executives:

One voice is probably nothing to an organization such as the NIH, but I have to at least say a few words, to try and appeal to your higher consciousness.

I implore you; please steer away from this idea of injecting human stem cells into animals. If we are successful in growing human parts, organs, whatever, there will be horrible suffering for the animals. We will perform surgeries on these creatures, remove parts and perform procedures on helpless, caged, creatures.

*Our society is better than this, better than subjecting another species to suffering so ours can live just a little longer. And if we are not better, then let's strive to be better. Instead of sentencing a species to a lifetime of suffering, for our benefit, let's work on our species. Use your funding to better our diets, to shed light on healthy lifestyles, and to promote animal welfare. There are many studies proving the benefits that living **with** animal companions provide to all humans. We experience lower blood pressure, less anxiety, and our physical activities are increased.*

Please, we have made huge strides and progress over the years, migrating away from testing cosmetics and drugs on animals. Not only is it unethical, but many times the data is not valid for humans. This idea of human stem cells in animals will set these efforts back thousands of years. Do we really want to be a Nahtzee Germany? Do we really want to behave in such an inhumane and unjust way to a living, breathing, being, and say it is justified because they cannot speak as we do? Ask yourself what really is the difference between us and them. We all breathe oxygen, ingest nutrition, wince when we feel pain, sleep, play, get old, die.

The animals do speak; if we just listen.....Lets grow our species with grace and ethics. Please.

Sincerely,

Mitzi Cafer, Topeka, Kansas