

Peter Mathieson
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
University of Edinburgh

10 August 2021

Via e-mail: principal@ed.ac.uk

Dear Professor Mathieson:

As a veteran rocker, I'm not shocked by much. But I was stunned—and horrified—to learn from PETA that the University of Edinburgh is still subjecting mice and rats to the cruel forced swim test, an experiment that's been deep-sixed almost everywhere, including at King's College London, GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson.

In case your researchers haven't fully filled you in, this old, bizarre experiment forces mice and rats to experience the fear of drowning when experimenters place them in inescapable sheer-sided containers of water and watch as they desperately struggle to keep their heads above water, purportedly to shed light on human depression. Imagine doing that to a dog—or a baby, for that matter. Your experimenters simply record how long these trapped, exhausted animals swim and float, which has f*** all to do with clinical depression. Scientists with common sense believe that relying on this flawed test could actually hinder the development of effective treatments for human conditions. Just in case you don't let animals' sentience inform your decisions, I hope you'll be struck by the fact that money is being squandered in a way that may actually *hurt* human beings. And if anyone tells you different, remember George Bernard Shaw's words that anyone who wouldn't hesitate to experiment on animals won't hesitate to lie about it.

I'll be in Edinburgh soon—performing at the Queen's Hall during this year's Fringe Festival—and I welcome the chance to meet with you, together with PETA's scientists, on this issue. Or please let me and my fans know that the University of Edinburgh has stopped approving this test.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHY', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chrissie Hynde