



Hugh Brady  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
University of Bristol

19 May 2022

Via e-mail: [vc-epa@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:vc-epa@bristol.ac.uk)

Dear Professor Brady:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) with a *cheeky* offer to sort out the faeces that have reportedly flooded the university's library. PETA will happily cover the costs of cleaning up the mess – which we understand is still affecting the Special Collections section – plus plumbing repairs, if the university agrees to *cut the crap* and stop using the forced swim test on animals.

As you know, the forced swim test has been thoroughly debunked and exposed as cruel and pointless. King's College London and other leading institutions have already dropped it, yet the University of Bristol is still inexplicably *blocking* progress on this issue.

Rats used by the University of Bristol are put into inescapable beakers filled with water, in which they paddle frantically in search of an escape until, eventually, they float. Experimenters absurdly claim that this test tells us about human mental health conditions, such as those caused by stress. Human stressors that contribute to poor mental health are typically chronic in nature, involving psychological symptoms that are not measurable in animals, such as flashbacks, emotional numbness, and detachment. Stress-related mental health conditions are some of the most common and debilitating conditions in the world, making it vital that scientific research achieves results that are relevant for humans.

Following discussions with PETA UK and other PETA entities, 15 companies and three other universities have said that they will not use the forced swim test – it's time for the University of Bristol to move with the times, too. Please let me know if you'll take us up on our win-win offer to get your house in order.

Yours sincerely,

Elisa Allen  
Vice President of Programmes

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

PO Box 70315  
London N1P 2RG  
United Kingdom  
+44 (0) 20 7837 6327  
+44 (0) 20 7923 6242 (fax)

[Info@peta.org.uk](mailto:Info@peta.org.uk)

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)  
FOUNDATION – a charitable  
company limited by guarantee,  
with its registered office at  
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,  
London EC4N 6AF.  
Registered in England and Wales  
as charity number 1056453,  
company number 3135903.

**Affiliates**

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
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