



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Lord Vallance of Balham KCB, and The Rt Hon. the Lord Hanson of Flint

10 October 2025

Dear Lord Vallance and Lord Hanson:

I'm writing as a sepsis survivor and a citizen who cares about animal welfare and scientific progress. While the government's new roadmap to eliminate experiments on animals is a significant step forward, it lacks a commitment to ending animal use in sepsis research. I'm writing to ask you to take urgent action to rectify this.

Sepsis affects around 245,000 people in the UK every year – and kills more than breast, bowel, and prostate cancer combined. Despite decades of research, billions in funding, and the suffering of countless animals, we still lack effective, targeted treatments. This failure costs the UK up to £15.6 billion annually.

Mice are the most used animals in sepsis experiments, often experiencing fever, diarrhoea, and organ failure, and are usually denied pain relief. Even those who survive these barbaric experiments are eventually killed – and for what? This approach hasn't delivered a single targeted treatment for sepsis to date. Continuing to torment animals in this way is both diabolical and utterly illogical, as non-animal methods – including *in vitro* models, computational biology and use of human patient data – are humane, readily available, and far more representative of human biology. Artificial intelligence and machine learning tools can also assist with early sepsis detection, which, as you know, is crucial to early intervention and survival.

The US and the EU are already taking steps to move beyond animal use. The UK must not lag behind. The UK's leadership in scientific progress, development of novel therapies for patients, and animal welfare lies in the use of state-of-the-art, humane research methods.

Lord Vallance, please ensure that sepsis research is included in the roadmap as an area where animal use will be rapidly and fully eliminated. Lord Hanson, I urge you to stop authorising the use of animals in sepsis research immediately. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Fern Britton

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