

October 6, 2020

Dr. Martha E. Pollack  
President  
Cornell University  
300 Day Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853-2801

Dear Dr. Pollack:

I hope this finds you, your family, and all members of Cornell University community safe and well as our nation struggles with the COVID-19 pandemic. With impacts of the virus demanding constant attention, and with little discussion of *why* millions of our fellow human beings are suffering and dying from the virus and its economic impacts, it is crucial to consider Cornell's role in *causing* this and other human diseases. I am writing to explain how Cornell and our other land-grant universities (LGUs) can become champions of human wellbeing. Today, unfortunately, they continue to undermine it despite a decade-and-a-half of Responsible Policies for Animals' (RPA's) effort to liberate them from the most harmful LGU programs.

Human beings acquire their worst diseases, including COVID-19, from the *meat delusion*, manufactured false beliefs that it is natural and healthful for human beings to eat from animals when human beings are natural herbivores. Billions of dollars' worth of lobbying, propaganda, training, sales, research, and experimentation that Cornell and our other LGUs provide to the meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries through "animal science" reinforces the meat delusion, undermining efforts by nutrition science, public health, and advocacy for environment and animals to halt disease and promote wellbeing.

"Animal science" is based on deception about the kind of animal we are; what is natural and healthful for us to eat; disastrous ecological impacts of meat, dairy, fish, egg, feed, and agrichemical industries; and the inherent injustice of those industries. The enclosed white paper "The Case for Ending 'Animal Science' Documented" and the enclosed brochure *Human Misery: The Animal-Abuse Factor* tell the truth about these matters. "Animal science" misrepresents them, flouting the findings of zoology, ecology, nutrition, anthropology, and other fields of study.

It is heartbreaking to reflect on the misery that could have been avoided if Cornell and our other LGUs had acted responsibly from the time RPA first began to inform their administrators and trustees about far-reaching harm from "animal science." Had they heeded the call to eliminate "animal science," telling the world why and debunking the meat delusion, multiple outbreaks of the horrible Ebola virus might have been avoided. Same with SARS, MERS, and other infectious diseases linked to the meat delusion. Moving away from the sick-making standard American diet (abbreviated SAD by experts), millions could have avoided heart disease, osteoporosis, cancer, food poisoning, and other deadly and life-diminishing ailments. Vast tracts of farmland could

Page Two  
Dr. Martha E. Pollack  
October 6, 2020

have shifted from toxically-grown feed to non-toxically grown plants for human consumption that support human health and immune response. Earth could be a far better place than it is today.

*Every week*, human beings slaughter more nonhuman animals than the number of human beings killed in all wars combined through all of human existence. Billions of animals spend their lives suffering in facilities “animal science” invented and imposed on farmers decades ago for “efficiency and economy.” Animals bred and enslaved by human beings never lead fulfilling lives. Our LGU communities and the rest of our species continue to endure extreme *moral injury* because Cornell and our other LGUs stonewalled RPA, treating the “animal science” problem as a public-relations matter.

Human beings will never be safe as long as meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries continue assaulting human bodies and the water, topsoil, and biodiversity we all depend on for survival, fulfillment, and wellbeing. “Animal science” faculty and staff are not personally to blame. They deserve a humane and non-judgmental process of transferring to other jobs. The U.S. Department of Labor indicates that they are most likely qualified for work in biology, zoology, plant farming and other areas of work.

When Cornell and our other LGUs disseminate the truth about sources of human misery, and stop acting as knowledge bottlenecks, word will rapidly spread to all continents. As people end their unnatural and hazardous contact with other animals, the greatest-ever improvement to human health will take place. I am sure you will agree that such an improvement is urgent. By completing and returning the brief enclosed form, you can reveal your stand prevention of zoonotic infectious diseases like COVID-19 and on reducing heart disease, stroke, osteoporosis, food poisoning, and other dire afflictions caused by the meat delusion.

I urge you to let me know that Cornell University will eliminate “animal science.” I have studied related matters for more than three decades, and I taught at universities for many years. I am glad to provide more information or other assistance that you might desire. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to hear from you about this crucial matter at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

David Cantor  
Executive Director  
Responsible Policies for Animals

Enclosures