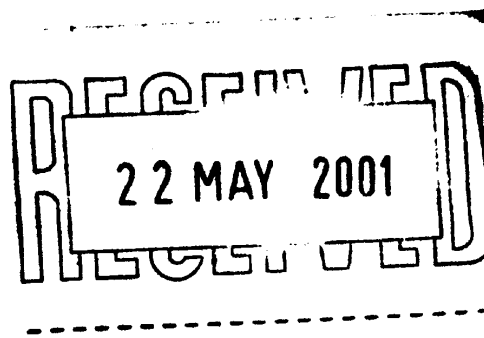


Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Patrons HM The Queen, HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother *Vice Patron* His Grace The Archbishop of Canterbury



Registered charity no. 219099



8 May 2001

Dear

Thank you for your letter about the RSPCA and animal experiments and please accept my apologies for the delay in writing to you. I am sorry that you felt compelled to cancel your membership of the Society. Of course, this is your decision, but I would like to correct the very misleading impression that the Sunday People article presents of the Society's policy regarding animal research and testing.

The RSPCA is opposed to all experiments that cause animals pain, suffering or distress, and is committed to campaigning for their replacement with humane alternatives. Due to a lack of adequate alternative testing methods this is unfortunately a goal that will take a long time to achieve, so we are equally committed to campaigning for any measures that will reduce laboratory animal suffering and improve their welfare while animal experiments continue. We believe that all laboratory animals are individuals who are capable of suffering and that they should never be regarded as disposable research tools. I enclose an information sheet that explains how the Society's Research Animals Department works to change attitudes towards animals used in research, to tighten the laws that regulate animal use and to challenge the laws that require animal tests.

The Society is totally committed to replacing animal experiments and striving to give laboratory animals a life worth living in the meantime, and we all work very hard to achieve these goals. It is therefore extremely frustrating to see all our efforts dismissed in such a simplistic manner by a newspaper article, because we care about these animals very much and are dedicated to helping them in what we sincerely believe to be the most effective way. You obviously care about them very much too, so thank you for your previous generous support for the RSPCA, which is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Hawkins

Research Animals Department