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THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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Dr. Yasuji Koyama, Director
Research & Development Division
Kikkoman Corporation
399 Noda, Noda-Shi, Chiba
278-0037 Japan

Via e-mail: ykoyama@mail.kikkoman.co.jp

Dear Dr. Koyama,

Thank you in advance for your time. On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 3 million members and supporters worldwide, **I'm writing to ask Kikkoman to join other industry leaders in implementing a policy that prohibits conducting, funding, and commissioning experiments on animals**.

PETA first contacted you about this issue in 2010, and we were troubled to discover that Kikkoman has recently conducted and funded experiments to verify potential health claims in which feeding tubes were repeatedly forced down rats' throats to administer fermented soy milk[1]; mice were infected with influenza and killed[2]; the ligaments in the legs of mice were cut and portions of their knees removed to induce symptoms of osteoarthritis, including chronic joint inflammation[3]; and mice were given colitis and later killed.[4]

In the Kikkoman-supported experiments that we wrote to you about in 2010, rabbits were fed high-cholesterol diets in order to induce atherosclerotic lesions and later killed[5]; rats were force-fed soy sauce through surgically attached stomach tubes, after which they were "sacrificed by decapitation … followed by rapid removal of the brains"[6]; and guinea pigs' backs were shaved and then

[1]Takuya Sato *et al*., "Fermented Soymilk Increases Voluntary Wheel Running Activity and Sexual Behavior in Male Rats," *Applied Physiology, Nutrition, and Metabolism* (2010) 35(6): 749–54.
[2]Emiko Kinoshita *et al*., "Anti-Influenza Virus Effects of Elderberry Juice and Its Fractions," *Bioscience, Biotechnology, and Biochemistry* (2012), 76(9): 1633–8.
[3]Hailati Aini *et al*., "Procyanidin B_3 Prevents Articular Cartilage Degeneration and Heterotopic Cartilage Formation in a Mouse Surgical Osteoarthritis Model," *PLoS One* (2012), 7(5): n.p.
[4]Tadaomi Kawashima *et al*., "Double-Stranded RNA of Intestinal Commensal but Not Pathogenic Bacteria Triggers Production of Protective Interferon-β," *Immunity* (2013), 38: 1187–97.
[5]Jun Yamakoshi *et al*., "Proanthocyanidin-Rich Extract From Grape Seeds Attenuates the Development of Aortic Atherosclerosis in Cholesterol-Fed Rabbits," *Atherosclerosis* (1999), 142(1–3): 139–49.
[6]Jun Yamakoshi *et al*., "Antihypertensive and Natriuretic Effects of Less-Sodium Soy Sauce Containing γ-Aminobutyric Acid in Spontaneously Hypertensive Rats," *Bioscience, Biotechnology, and Biochemistry* (2007), 71(1): 165–73.

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irradiated by damaging ultraviolet light before they were killed.[7]

As we previously explained, PETA is concerned that such experiments have continued despite the availability and superiority of non-animal research methods and the absence of a legal mandate in Japan or the United States requiring animal testing. We are confident that your customers—including many PETA supporters—would be surprised and troubled to learn this as well. We have worked with other major food and beverage companies to end experiments on animals and instead verify health claims using humane, human-relevant, cost-effective, animal-free testing methods.

We hope that Kikkoman will join Coca-Cola, ITO EN, Lipton, POM Wonderful, Ocean Spray, Welch's, and other progressive companies that PETA has worked with to establish policies against experiments on animals.

May I please hear from you on this important matter? I can be contacted at 646-344-0205 or MichaelN@peta.org

Sincerely,

Michael Niebo
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[7]Mineka Yoshimura *et al*., "Inhibitory Effect of an Ellagic Acid-Rich Pomegranate Extract on Tyrosinase Activity and Ultraviolet-Induced Pigmentation," *Bioscience, Biotechnology, and Biochemistry* (2005), 69(12): 2368–73.