

【附錄六】 狂犬病專家傅振芳 (Zhen F. Fu DVM. PhD) 教授之聲明

10 September 2013

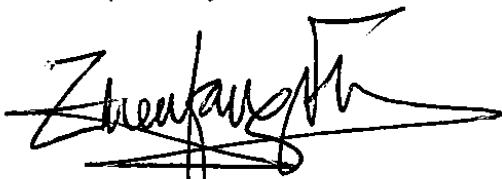
Dear Director:

As a researcher in the field of rabies virus biology, I share your concern regarding the recent isolation of rabies virus in ferret-badgers in Taiwan after many decades of absence. As a fatal zoonotic disease, rabies control demands careful surveillance and prevention efforts. Fortunately, vaccination of both domestic animals and wildlife has proven to be an effective method of control of rabies. As such, I am extremely concerned with the apparent plans by the Council of Agriculture (COA) to expose unvaccinated dogs to the rabies virus to determine the infectivity of the virus. Together with the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, I respectfully ask you to reconsider these plans in favor of a more rapid and ultimately more effective vaccination program.

The use of dogs in rabies virus research is both unnecessary and unethical. After decades of research, the infectivity of rabies virus and the resulting course of infection in dogs have been well established. Vaccine efficacy in canine populations, which is essential to confirm in a timely manner, can be determined through a simple blood draw from previously vaccinated dogs, followed by in vitro virus neutralization assays. A search of the biomedical literature reveals that dogs are no longer used for either vaccine development or academic rabies research. The use of dogs in the proposed experiments would waste valuable time, money, and animal lives, without offering any substantial benefit to public health.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these issues. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Zhen F. Fu, DVM., PhD