



AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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JAMES S. TODD, M.D.
Executive Vice President

July 26, 1990

Neal Barnard, M.D.
President, Physicians Committee for
Responsible Medicine
P.O. Box 6322
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Dr. Barnard:

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) occupies a prominent position among animal "rights" organizations speaking out against the use of animals in biomedical research. Occasionally directly and often by implication, your organization purports to speak for a majority of physicians although your membership constitutes less than half of one percent of the total physician population in this country. Even the name of your organization is misleading, especially in view of the fact that, according to your own admission, bonafide physicians constitute less than ten percent of your total membership.

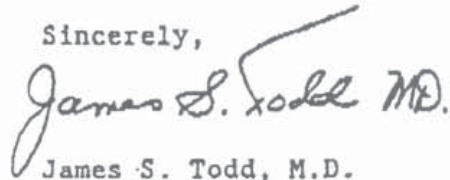
The general approach used by PCRM takes selective data and quotations, often out of context, to imply that experiments requiring animals are somehow inappropriate and are always cruel, inhumane and unnecessary. In public statements PCRM ignores completely the paucity of information available on causes and treatment for a host of clinical problems including sudden infant death syndrome, arthritis, rheumatism, schizophrenia, lupus, manic-depressive illness, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, various genetic disorders and many others.

Surveys we have conducted on physician opinion about the use of animals in biomedical research and education refute completely public statements made by PCRM about the critical role animals play in the research process. Physicians show overwhelming support for animal use in basic and clinical research, drug testing and medical education. The positions your organization promotes contribute to public confusion and misunderstanding about the medical research process.

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In response to a Resolution passed unanimously at the recent AMA House of Delegates meeting, the American Medical Association calls upon the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine to immediately terminate the inappropriate and unethical tactics your organization uses to manipulate public opinion. The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine does not represent a substantive body of physicians and your promotional materials and public statements should so indicate. We urge an immediate change in your tactics and strategies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James S. Todd M.D." with a long, sweeping flourish above the name.

James S. Todd, M.D.

JST/ms