

May 2, 2005

Sarah Hart, Director
National Institute of Justice
810 Seventh St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20531

1 page via fax: 202-307-6394

Dear Ms. Hart:

Thank you for your April 11 letter in which you attempted to address our concerns regarding the NIJ-sponsored Taser experiments on pigs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

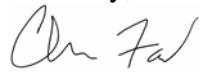
Although you assert that John Webster's experiments will not repeat those conducted in earlier studies, we remain unconvinced that they will yield new information. As evidenced in the appendix references in the proposal to the NIJ, this study is predicated upon previous Taser-funded experiments.

In fact, most of the Taser experiments cited were conducted by Robert A. Stratbucker, who is Taser International's Medical Director (see attachment 1). The UW experiment has been characterized as an "independent study," but we believe that nothing could be further from the truth. Stratbucker is listed in the proposal budget as a consultant, but oddly enough, his position at Taser is omitted from the *curriculum vitae* that was submitted by John Webster to the NIJ. Stratbucker's tendency to omit his Taser association is not new—he was reportedly dismissed in the JonBenet Ramsey civil case after his failure to disclose this affiliation was uncovered in his deposition (attachment 2). We believe that there is a clear conflict of interest and that John Webster has failed to make full disclosure to the NIJ.

Stratbucker has been Tasering pigs, dogs, and other animals for the company for the past 10 years in an effort to prove that the weapons are safe. As Taser's medical director, he has a vested interest in ensuring that studies on the weapon are favorable. Further, Webster himself has publicly stated that he believes that Tasers are safe to use on people (see attachment 3). It is clear that the results of his experiment on animals would be a foregone conclusion.

In light of this clear conflict of interest between Taser's vested interest and Webster's study—which has been publicly touted as "independent"—PETA urges the National Institute of Justice to immediately pull its funding from this flagrant and dirty waste of taxpayer dollars in this cruel, biased experiment on animals. Please contact me to let us know of your decision.

Sincerely,



Chris Ford
Research Associate



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

501 FRONT ST.
NORFOLK, VA 23510
757-622-PETA
757-622-0457 (FAX)

PETA.org
Info@peta.org

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS