

Alliance for Animals

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August 3, 2009

Brian Blanchard

Dane County District Attorney

Dane County Courthouse Room 3000

Madison, WI 53703-3297

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

The Alliance for Animals has learned that researchers at the University of Wisconsin, Madison have been violating Wisconsin Statute 951.025 intermittently since at least 1988.

As you are aware, Wisconsin Statute 951.025, "Crimes Against Animals," forbids *anyone* to "kill an animal by means of decompression."

On at least three occasions, researchers at the university have killed sheep by means of decompression.

Details of the most recent of these crimes against animals are documented by the researchers in their 2008 paper, "Oxygen pre-breathing decreases dysbaric diseases in UW sheep undergoing hyperbaric exposure." (enclosed)

Previous instances of these crimes were recorded and published by researchers at the university in 1997 and 1988:

Dysbaric osteonecrosis in divers and caisson workers. An animal model. Lehner CE, Adams WM, Dubielzig RR, Palta M, Lanphier EH. *Clin Orthop Relat Res*. 1997.

Experimental respiratory decompression sickness in sheep. Atkins CE, Lehner CE, Beck KA, Dubielzig RR, Nordheim EV, Lanphier EH. *J Appl Physiol*. 1988. (enclosed)

In all three cases, sheep were killed by means of decompression, a violation of the "Crimes Against Animals" statute – in each and every sheep's death.

University oversight committees likely approved the experiments described in all three of these papers. We believe that the members of the committees that approved these violations could be deemed accessories to these crimes.

This is a serious matter. We urge you and your office to investigate these crimes and to take all steps necessary to bring the violators to justice.

Please contact us if we can provide any assistance whatsoever.

Sincerely,

Lynn Pauly, Executive Director