

Dear Dr. Stokes:

As a Kindergarten teacher, I try to teach my children to be kind to animals. As research as shown, violent offenders - including serial killers - get their start in life by being cruel to animals. What would I say if someday an older child ever asked me what justifies cruelty to animals being done by people who are not violent offenders/serial killers?

Please, let animals who are innocent and defenseless and cannot speak for themselves not undergo unnecessary suffering. Even the terrorists who caused 9-11 to live as a day in infamy in our history are leading better lives than the poor animals.

I ask you to support a partial implementation of in vitro testing, to set a "starting dose" for the lethal poisoning tests, which would have the effect of further reducing the number of animals in the tests.

Since the NIEHS is inviting the public to comment on the findings of these scientists and the use of in-vitro cell cultures as a replacement for lethal animal tests, I hope my words count.

Thank you.

Mrs. Venturi