



August 14, 2025

Tim Boring, PhD
Director
Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
525 W. Allegan St.
Lansing, MI 48909
Submitted via boringt1@michigan.gov

RE: Violation of Teddy's Law by Wayne State University

Dear Director Boring:

On behalf of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine and Humane Society of Huron Valley, we are writing to request that the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development ("MDARD") investigate Wayne State University for violating Section 287.388a of Michigan Public Act 224, commonly referred to as Teddy's Law.

Public records obtained by the Physicians Committee through the Michigan Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") show that dog 3002 was killed by Wayne State employees in May 2024 despite being healthy and adoptable. They killed the dog because he would not run on a treadmill as needed for the university's heart failure experiments, because of a small laceration on his paw, and because they misdiagnosed and overstated the importance of bacteria found in a skin culture. Dog 3002's complete veterinary file is available for viewing and download [here](#). In support of our request for investigation, please see the appended expert analysis from Robin Chadwin, DVM, who concluded:

I do not agree that D3002 had a poor prognosis, and I do not believe that euthanasia was the appropriate outcome. I believe that there was minimal effort to provide appropriate care and that his poor prognosis was based on conclusions that were reached prematurely, were hypothetical, and/or were incorrect.¹

1. The Experiments

Since 1991, a Wayne State faculty member has conducted heart failure experiments on dogs without producing any scientific advancements or treatments for patients. Yet Wayne State has killed more than 150 dogs since 2010² and likely more than 300 dogs since the experiments first began.

The dogs endure multiple surgeries in which Wayne State employees cut open the animals' chest cavities, insert devices in and around major blood vessels, stab catheters into their hearts, insert catheters between the dogs' spines and the surrounding membranes, and "tunnel" cables and wires

¹ Chadwin, R. 2025, July 28. Statement Regarding the Care and Euthanasia of D3002 by Wayne State University. Page 1.

² Experimental protocol obtained from Wayne State University via FOIA.

under their skin and out between the dogs' shoulder blades. The employees also feed the dogs a "high fat diet," which increases the animals' risk of stroke. The dogs who survive the intensive surgeries are forced to run on treadmills while experimenters drastically raise their heart rates using implanted devices. This is repeated for days, weeks, or even months.³

The experiments are purposely designed to kill the dogs. Public records reveal that dogs at Wayne State routinely suffer infections and severe internal bleeding before they are killed. In some cases, dogs have struggled to breathe as their chest cavities painfully fill with blood. Several dogs have been found dead in their cages.⁴

2. Dog 3002

On March 2, 2023, Wayne State purchased four male "hound type" dogs from Marshall BioResources, a factory farm in western New York. Instead of giving names to the dogs, the university assigned them only numbers: 3000, 3001, 3002, and 3003.⁵ While three of the dogs were soon subjected to invasive experimental surgeries, dog 3002—who was described as "Brown [and] White" and was 7 months old at the time⁶—was not. Instead, he spent the next 14 months in a windowless basement cage on Wayne State's medical campus before university employees suddenly killed him.

RECORD OF SALE OF DOGS

SELLER		BUYER		DATE OF SALE		PAGE					
Marshall BioResources 5800 Lake Bluff Rd. North Rose, NY 14516 U. S. A.		[REDACTED]		3-02-23		1 OF 1					
DEALER'S LICENSE #	BUYER'S USDA LICENSE OR RES. FACIL REG #	MARSHALL ORD #	CUSTOMER POW	QUANTITY SHIPPED							
21-A-0008	348034	154204	P1045852	4 Dogs: 4 Male, 0 Female							
DOG #	SEX	BIRTH	WGT-KG	TYPE	COLOR	DOG #	SEX	BIRTH	WGT-KG	TYPE	COLOR
249425	M	7-01-22	24.9	Hound Type	Brown -White	3002					
249516	M	7-08-22	24.5	Hound Type	Redtick	3001					
249701	M	7-15-22	22.9	Hound Type	Black/White	3003					
249883	M	7-18-22	28.5	Hound Type	Brown	3000					

Record of dog 3002's sale to Wayne State, dated March 2, 2023.

On June 2, 2023, dog 3002 was permanently separated from dog 3003—with whom he had been sharing a cage—because of abrasions, bruising, and a "puncture wound" on his left elbow.⁷ It appears that dog 3002 was caged alone for the next 11 months.

Over the last six months of dog 3002's life, Wayne State employees did not note any serious medical or behavioral issues for him. In fact, his records on April 2, 2024, state, "no vet concerns."⁸

4/2/24		1430	Monthly
			Vet entry: Gained 1.4 kg from 2/27 to 4/1. BCS 3/5
			OK to keep food ration unchanged. C/M. Alert &
			active, no vet concerns.
[REDACTED]			[REDACTED]

Record of dog 3002 stating "no vet concerns," dated April 2, 2024.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Veterinary records obtained from Wayne State University via the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.

⁵ Records for dog 3002, page 1.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Records for dog 3002, page 22.

⁸ Ibid.

On May 1, 2024, his records state he was “A+A,” meaning alert and active.⁹

4/29/24	ALL	OK	A+A, FED 4.5C CLC.
4/30/24	ALL	OK	A+A, FED 4.5C CLC.
5/1/24	all	ok	A+A,

Record of dog 3002 stating he was alert and active (“A+A”), dated May 1, 2024.

That same day, his records also note that he had suffered a “laceration” on his left paw “while leash-walked.”¹⁰ A Wayne State veterinarian sedated him and noted the cut on dog 3002’s paw was about “1 – 1.5 cm” (about half an inch) in length.¹¹ The veterinarian only placed one suture, claiming they “could not” place more because dog 3002 was waking up.¹² Yet Dr. Chadwin notes in her analysis that the veterinarian could have provided the dog with additional anesthesia to “more appropriately” close the wound.¹³

otherwise stable under sedation; 04 hair
clipped; full-thickness skin laceration ~ 1-
1.5 cm; skin cleaned w/ dilute betadine
& sterile saline; tetracycline 1.5 ml lidocaine
SC around laceration & splash block;
laceration flushed w/ sterile saline;
closed w/ 2-0 prolene; simple interrupted (1
suture) & vetbond; pt was starting to
recover & additional sutures could not be
placed; pt recovered WNL wearing E-collar;

Record of dog 3002, dated May 1, 2024.

After the Wayne State veterinarian’s questionable attempt at closing dog 3002’s wound, university employees compounded the harm with yet another error that jeopardized his health. A Wayne State staff member walked dog 3002 “back to [the] lab” on a leash while he wore an Elizabethan collar (also known as an E-collar),¹⁴ which Dr. Chadwin identifies was an inappropriate handling practice. She writes that an E-collar can cause “stress, frustration, or panic, particularly when an animal is walking or is first getting used to it.”¹⁵ She points out that dogs can be irritable or aggressive when recovering,¹⁶ and dog 3002’s records reveal that that is just what happened—he “became fractious” and “wouldn’t settle until E-collar removed.”¹⁷ This appears to have caused his wound to reopen and extend to about “1.5 – 2 cm”¹⁸—still less than 1 inch long.

under sedation; when pt leash-walked back
to lab became fractious & wouldn’t settle
until E-collar removed; pt re-opened laceration
& extended its length to ~ 1.5 cm - 2cm in

Record of dog 3002, dated May 1, 2024.

⁹ Records for dog 3002, page 21.

¹⁰ Records for dog 3002, page 24.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Chadwin, R., page 5.

¹⁴ Records for dog 3002, page 24.

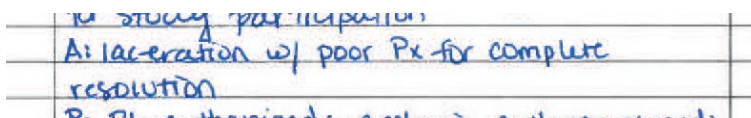
¹⁵ Chadwin, R., page 6.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Records for dog 3002, page 24.

¹⁸ Ibid.

Wayne State employees hurried to euthanize dog 3002 by claiming the small laceration had a “poor [prognosis] for complete resolution.”¹⁹



Record of dog 3002 stating his prognosis (“Px”) was “poor,” dated May 1, 2024.

But Dr. Chadwin points out that Wayne State employees appear to have failed to attempt several commonsense interventions. For example, they could have placed an E-collar on dog 3002 once he was settled in his cage, used an appropriate E-collar to reduce the risk of reopening the wound, and/or administered more sedative or an anti-anxiety medication.²⁰ Dr. Chadwin also points out that “the staff could have used a different drug protocol that would have given longer and deeper sedation, or even full anesthesia, which would have allowed for a more secure wound closure, plus appropriate bandaging to protect the wound.”²¹

Instead, Wayne State employees manufactured several excuses to euthanize dog 3002:

- They claimed dog 3002 was “unamenable to E-collar to prevent self-trauma.”²² But Dr. Chadwin points out that Wayne State appears to have failed to try alternative E-collars, stating, “I believe that the vet was very hasty in deciding that D3002 would not tolerate an E-collar, so it is not clear that this was even really a potential problem.”²³
- They claimed there was “possible foreign body risk,”²⁴ meaning he might ingest unwanted material that could become lodged in his gastrointestinal tract. But Dr. Chadwin points out that was only hypothetical as his records indicate no history of ingesting foreign objects.²⁵ In addition, while some dogs will pull off their bandages, “many will just leave it on the ground or rip it up” rather than ingest it.²⁶ She also points out that Wayne State employees could have sprayed a deterrent on the bandage such as Bitter Apple, which often successfully discourages dogs from licking or chewing their bandages.²⁷
- They claimed dog 3002 had a “risk of infection & failure to heal” and a “history of [multidrug-resistant]” coagulase-negative staphylococcus.²⁸ But there is no evidence either statement is true. Skin culture reports for dog 3002 from Jan. 2, 2024,²⁹ and April 10, 2024,³⁰ detected light growths of *methicillin*-resistant staphylococcus, but both times the infections were susceptible to multiple antibiotics.

¹⁹ Records for dog 3002, page 25.

²⁰ Chadwin, R., page 6.

²¹ Chadwin, R., page 5.

²² Records for dog 3002, page 25.

²³ Chadwin, R., page 7.

²⁴ Records for dog 3002, page 25.

²⁵ Chadwin, R., page 6.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Records for dog 3002, page 25.

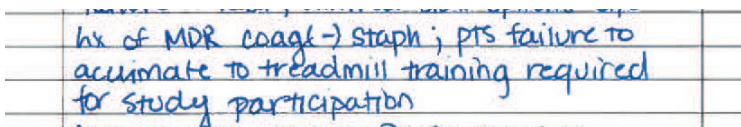
²⁹ Records for dog 3002, pages 38-39.

³⁰ Records for dog 3002, pages 42-44.

On the issue of infections, Dr. Chadwin points out that the species of bacteria detected by the April 10 skin culture are “commonly and normally found on healthy individuals.” The bacteria may have even been “contaminants or commensals (meaning that they just happen to live in that location on the body)” and not necessarily disease-causing.³¹

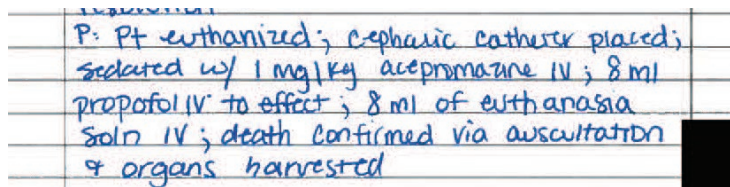
Dr. Chadwin also emphasizes that the presence of the detected bacteria “on a healthy animal at one point in time does not indicate that they will be persistently present.”³² She points out that, since the bacteria were detected on April 10, it’s possible they were no longer present by the time Wayne State employees decided to kill dog 3002 three weeks later. In addition, Dr. Chadwin states that even if the bacteria were present on May 1, “there were many options for preventing and treating infection.”³³

In reality, Wayne State employees killed dog 3002 because they could not use him in the university’s heart failure experiments. The records on the last day of his life include these revealing words: “failure to acclimate to treadmill training required for study participation.”³⁴



Record of dog 3002 stating “failure to acclimate to treadmill training,” dated May 1, 2024.

On May 1, 2024, Wayne State employees placed an intravenous catheter in dog 3002’s leg, administered “euthanasia” solution, and killed him.³⁵ However, the term “euthanasia” refers to “the act or practice of killing or permitting the death of hopelessly sick or injured individuals (such as persons or domestic animals)...for reasons of mercy.”³⁶ Dog 3002 was neither hopelessly sick nor hopelessly injured, and Wayne State’s decision was therefore not merciful.



Record of dog 3002 detailing his death, dated May 1, 2024.

3. Teddy’s Law

Section 287.388a of Michigan Public Act 224—commonly referred to as Teddy’s Law—states:

“Before euthanizing a [dog or cat] no longer needed for laboratory research that the attending veterinarian...determines is suitable for adoption, a research facility shall offer the laboratory animal directly to its employees or to an animal protection shelter located in this state for adoption.”³⁷

³¹ Chadwin, R., page 7.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Records for dog 3002, page 25.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Euthanasia. Retrieved 2025, Aug. 6 from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/euthanasia>.

³⁷ MCL 287.388a.

While the law gives each laboratory some discretion to determine when a dog or cat is “suitable for adoption,” a reasonable examination of dog 3002’s records—such as Dr. Chadwin’s—would conclude that he was adoptable. After having only known the confines of an industrial breeding facility and a windowless Wayne State basement, he should have been provided the opportunity for a loving home. The excuses presented by university employees for killing dog 3002 suggest they never seriously explored adoption.

4. Request for Investigation

Michigan research facilities must annually verify compliance with Teddy’s Law.³⁸ Using FOIA, the Physicians Committee obtained Wayne State’s “Annual Compliance Report” for 2024, on which Attending Veterinarian Michael Bradley, DVM, DACLAM, attested on Jan. 8, 2025, “before euthanizing any laboratory animal no longer needed for laboratory research, the research facility offered all laboratory animals deemed suitable for adoption.”³⁹

ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR RESEARCH FACILITIES

In accordance with 1969 PA 224, as amended

Research Facility Report Information	
Research Facility Name <i>Wayne State University</i>	USDA Registration Number <i>34-R-0014</i>
Facility City <i>Detroit</i>	Reporting Year <i>2024</i>
Public Act 224 of 1969, as amended, Section 11(a) requires a research facility that uses laboratory animals ¹ to annually submit a report to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) attesting compliance with the requirements of the act.	
Research facility's laboratory animal activities for the above reporting year (select one): <input type="radio"/> A. The research facility did <u>not</u> use laboratory animals during the reporting year. <input checked="" type="radio"/> B. The research facility used laboratory animals during the reporting year. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, before euthanizing any laboratory animal no longer needed for laboratory research, the research facility offered all laboratory animals deemed suitable for adoption ² .	

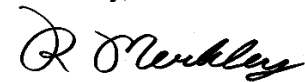
Teddy’s Law Annual Compliance Report by Wayne State for calendar year 2024, dated Jan. 8, 2025.

Wayne State misused its authority under Teddy’s Law to kill dog 3002, who was clearly suitable for adoption. By doing so, the university has also violated the spirit of the law, which undermines the goals set forth by the Michigan Legislature and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. If MDARD allows Wayne State to operate in this manner without oversight, the agency risks encouraging the university and other research facilities to similarly fabricate excuses for killing adoptable dogs and cats.

We request that the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development investigate Wayne State University for violating Teddy’s Law and levy a fine up to \$1,000.⁴⁰

Thank you for considering this request and looking into this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ryan Merkley
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Tanya Hilgendorf
President and CEO
Humane Society of Huron Valley

³⁸ MCL 287.391a.

³⁹ Annual Compliance Report for Research Facilities. 2025, Jan. 8.

⁴⁰ MCL 287.392.