

Good afternoon.

Please take a moment to read what White Coat Waste (WCW) is doing to the VA system currently. It is the 'year of the dog' for WCW, PETA, and the Beagle Freedom Project (BFP). Make no mistake about it. The dog is just a gateway species for this movement. Their ultimate goal is to end animal-based research as soon as possible, regardless of the harm this will cause to animals and people, and they are gaining unprecedented traction with lawmakers across the country. This is just the latest of several articles written in mainstream publications to attack the VA system. The author of this particular piece is an animal rights activist who is married to Justin Goodman, former Director of Government Relations, Laboratory Investigations Department with PETA and the current Vice President for Advocacy and Public Policy with WCW: <http://www.mcall.com/opinion/yourview/mc-va-animal-research-labs-lopresti-goodman-yv-0521-20170520-story.html> <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_www.mcall.com_opinion_yourview_mc-2Dva-2Danimal-2Dresearch-2Dlabs-2Dlopresti-2Dgoodman-2Dyv-2D0521-2D20170520-2Dstory.html&d=DwMFAg&c=ZQs-KZ8oxEw0p81sqqiaRA&r=MhbzYcDMoO1EcHhyPGQ2PQ&m=tMLESGeAUJU7YF5mzR7lpVpG6GFb_vYoa5R-XoZYbHA&s=ZStOaHdaegt9M0reQdjBmSHkdu-bbgiNBZrJ5SVdnnQ&e=>>

BFP bills have passed in MN, CA, NV, NY, CT and several more have been introduced across the nation: <https://bfp.org/petition/>. A federal bill is expected, as well, given recent successes by WCW in manipulating congressional representatives and the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

I have given talks to many of you about these issues. I have written articles and done interviews for our community and the public, defending our necessary and loving work. And I have spent nearly two years working to establish the ONLY direct counter to this latest threat, Homes for Animal Heroes (HAH). I announced the first annual fundraiser for HAH to you folks a couple of weeks ago, but only a few of you have supported our efforts.

Now, I am asking you directly and shamelessly for your help. If everyone reading this contributes as little as \$10 or \$20 dollars to this campaign, we will be able to expand the HAH network and educate the public in unique and powerful ways. I believe in our work and I believe in our profession, but I can't continue to do this without you. It's time for our community to be "all in", and \$10 or \$20 may change everything. Please DONATE now: <https://www.classy.org/campaign/run-for-research-awareness-homes-for-animal-heroes-virtual-5k/c127594>.

Best,
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