Norfolk, Va. — Following negotiations with DuPont, PETA has agreed to withdraw a shareholder resolution that the group planned to present at DuPont’s annual meeting in April. PETA’s resolution called for the company to formally adopt an animal welfare policy that would include psychological, social, and behavioral enrichment measures for animals who are used in DuPont’s laboratories and contract facilities. DuPont has agreed to formalize its animal welfare policy, ensure its enforcement in contract laboratories as well as in on-site facilities, and discuss further implementation of species-appropriate enrichment measures with PETA. DuPont has also agreed to work with PETA to further reduce a number of animal tests, such as skin irritation and skin absorption.

Studies of caged animals have shown that they suffer from stress, loneliness, and frustration as a result of the often barren and unnatural conditions in which they are forced to live. The enrichment measures that PETA is encouraging DuPont to implement include providing animals with nesting materials, hiding places, opportunities to forage and exercise, and group rather than isolation housing.

“This agreement is a small but vital step forward for animals in DuPont’s laboratories,” says PETA’s director of regulatory testing, Jessica Sandler. “We look forward to working with DuPont to ensure that the company uses as few animals as possible and that DuPont leads the way in improving conditions for those animals who are still used.”

Copies of the resolution and the withdrawal letter are available upon request. For more information, please visit PETA.org.

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