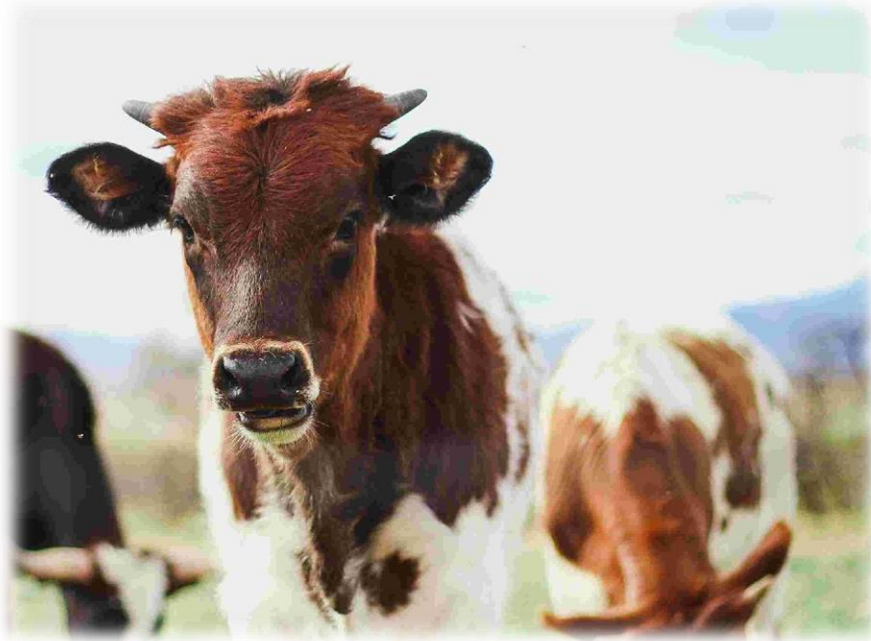


JAVA NEWS No.112 English ver.

This “JAVA NEWS No.112 English ver.” is a summary of JAVA NEWS No.112 published in Japanese on June 4 2024.



CONTENTS

• Cruelty to Cows at Ibaraki Prefectural Livestock Research Center JAVA and Three Groups Filed Criminal Charges	.....	2
• Lungs removed from live pigs at physician technique seminar	.....	7
• <Revision of the Animal Welfare Act> Its progress and our requesting points	.....	9
• Report on the 36th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments	.....	10
• Fur News	.....	12
• News from other countries	.....	13

Cruelty to Cows at Ibaraki Prefectural Livestock Research Center JAVA and three groups filed criminal charges

In February 2024, JAVA, together with three other animal rights groups, filed criminal charges against Ibaraki Prefecture and the workers of the Ibaraki Prefectural Livestock Research Center for violations of the Animal Welfare Act. This action was based on the information received by JAVA from a whistleblower regarding the cruelty to cows at the center.

About the Ibaraki Prefectural Livestock Research Center

The Ibaraki Prefectural Livestock Research Center (IPLRC), where the cruelty to cows was uncovered, is a prefectural facility for livestock testing that conducts research on livestock management, breeding, and breed improvement. In other words, it is an animal testing facility. It houses 55 dairy cattle and 63 beef cattle (as of December 2023), and the center also engages in business activities such as the sale of Wagyu embryos and raw milk from dairy cattle.



Cruelty to Cows Exposed

In July 2023, videos of workers abusing cows at the IPLRC were released online by PETA Asia, exposing the cruelty of conduct. These recordings were made by a whistleblower over a period of three months in 2022.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: “Inappropriate and Needs Improvement”

After receiving a report from PETA Asia about the actual conditions at the IPLRC, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) has issued a notice to prefectures, urging them to strictly enforce animal welfare-oriented management practices. This notice indicates that MAFF also recognizes the inappropriateness of the practices at the IPLRC and the need for improvement.

Public Inquiry Submitted to the Governor for Improvement and Prevention of Recurrence

Subsequently, JAVA and PEACE which collaborated in various activities, also received whistleblower reports regarding this same abuse. While it is obvious that appropriate measures must be taken against those who committed the abuse, our primary goal is to prevent the recurrence of the abuse and to improve the breeding environment of cows. To this end, in December 2023, JAVA, PEACE, and PETA Asia jointly submitted a public inquiry with over 30 questions to the Governor of Ibaraki, who is the ultimate authority of the IPLRC, seeking verification of the current situation and pointing out issues for improvement.

Unrepentant Response from the Prefecture

In February 2024, Ibaraki Prefecture responded to our inquiry. However, their response was completely lacking in specifics, stating that “we are managing our livestock in accordance with relevant laws and national guidelines”, as if the abuse had never occurred, and did not explain how the issues we pointed out were addressed or improved. The prefecture has not changed their stance since.

Criminal Complaint Filed Against Abusive Workers

On February 19th 2024, four groups including JAVA, filed criminal charges against the abusive workers and their employer, Ibaraki prefecture, for violating the Animal Welfare Act. The criminal charges were officially accepted on March 28th.

Please Raise Your Voices to the Governor of Ibaraki Prefecture!

Governor of Ibaraki Prefecture, Mr.Kazuhiro Oigawa

978-6 Kasahara-cho, Mito, Ibaraki 310-8555, Japan

“My proposal” email form: https://kouchou.pref.ibaraki.jp/kotyo/hp_iken_toroku.php

※Information current as of April 1st,2024.

Numerous Cruelties to the Cows

The cruelties to the cows by workers at the IPLRC are extensive, and the following are just only a part of many cases.

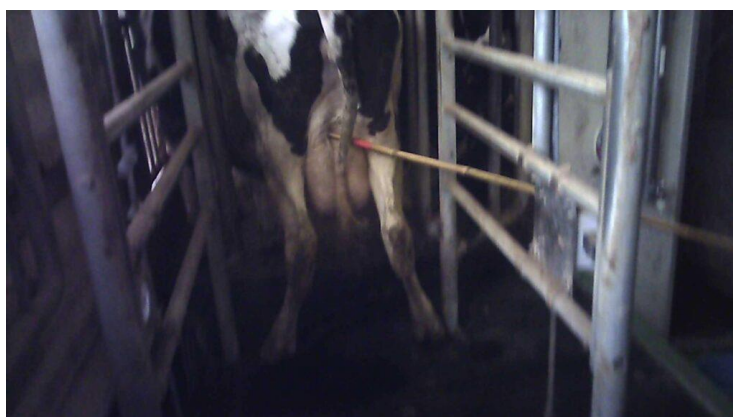
Daily Violence

The cows are regularly subjected to violence by multiple workers, including being punched in the face, struck on the legs with metal cleaning tools, jabbed in the udder and abdomen with bamboo sticks, and kicked in the lower body. In one instance, a cow was jabbed 17 times with a metal shovel in its hind legs with pain, which were being treated, during one examination.



A worker swings his leg and kicks a cow

A worker jabs a dairy cow's sensitive udder with a bamboo stick in the milking room



Leaving Cows Outside in Extreme Heat Without Shade

Despite the temperature reaching 104°F (40°C), several cows were left in the exercise area without shade, foaming at the mouth and panting heavily.



A cow with its mouth open and drooling heavily due to extreme heat

Raised in an Unsheltered Area

Some cows are constantly kept in outdoor exercise areas. There is no shelter to protect them from the wind, rain, and heat. There is only a small roof to protect the feed from rain. On rainy days, the cows are completely soaked. On some days they had to endure temperatures of 45.3°F (7.4°C) with wet bodies.



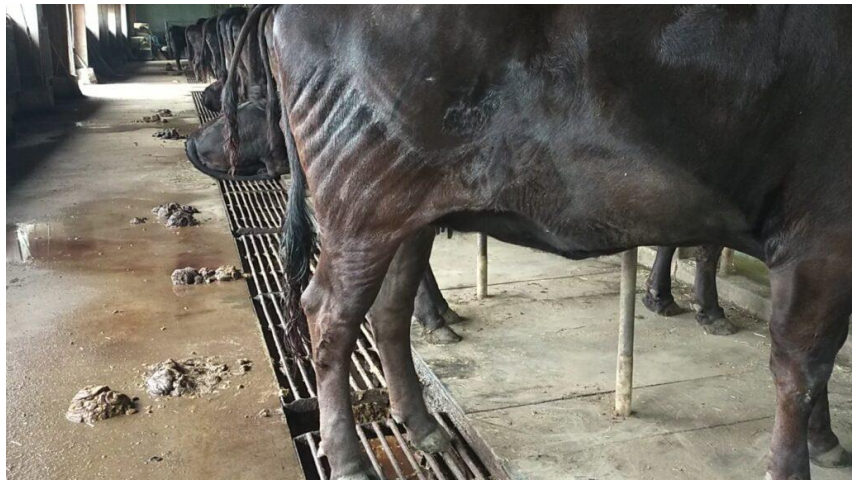
Cows trying to avoid the rain under a small roof

Raised in Conditions Where They Can Not Lie Down Properly

Cows housed in tie-stall barns must lie with their hind legs down on metal grating. The gratings have deteriorated and are bent, and there are gaps due to insufficient gratings. As a result, the cows cannot lie down properly.



A cow lying on the damaged and gapped grating, unable to stretch, as a result has to wrench its body



Clear marks left on a cow's body from the grating

Dehorning Calves Without Anesthesia or Sedatives

When dehorning calves, several workers climbed on top of the lying calf and pressed it down while the others held the calf's head with a foot. The calf cries out in pain when a worker presses a heated dehorning iron to the horn tissue.

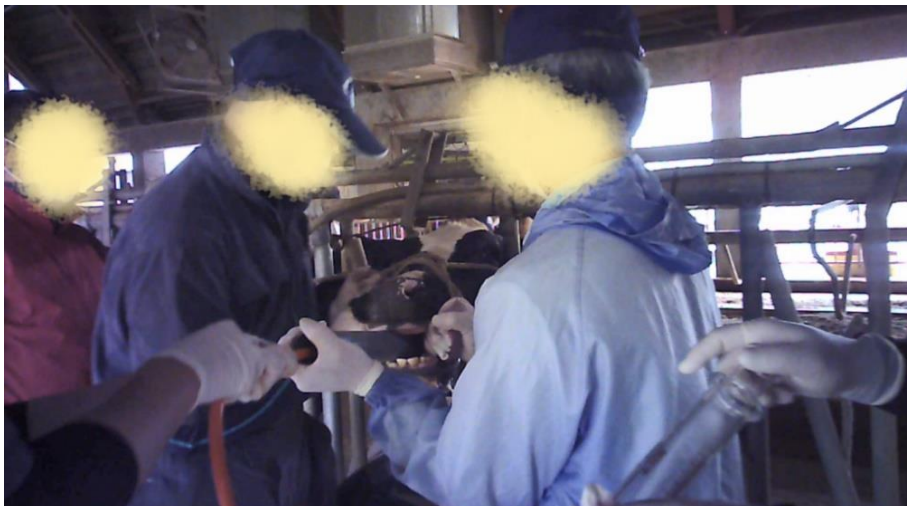
The MAFF guidelines state that "The procedure should be performed under anesthesia or pain relief administered by a veterinarian". Originally dehorning is not mandatory.



A calf struggles and cries out, eyes wide open in terror and pain

Violent Way of Collecting Stomach Fluids

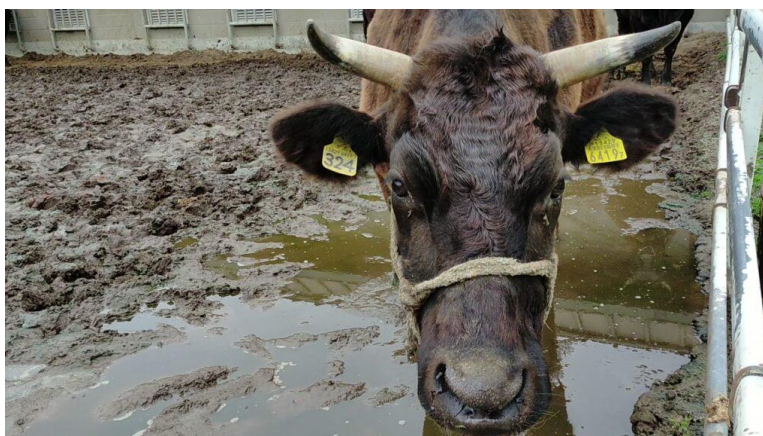
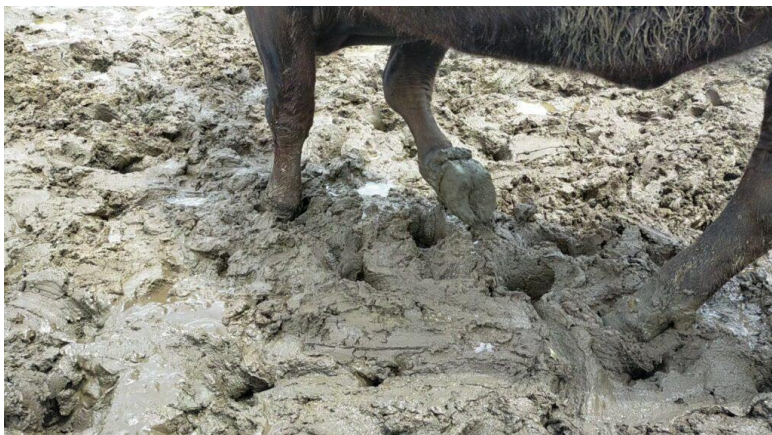
Stomach fluid collection from dairy cows is performed once or twice a month. However, due to the lack of knowledge, skills, and awareness of animal welfare among workers, the process is not smooth. When inserting a tube into the cow's nostril did not succeed after many trials, they forcibly inserted a thick and long pipe into the cow's mouth to insert the tube into the pipe. The cow bled from the nasal and struggles many times to escape the pain.



A cow with a plastic pipe forcibly inserted into its mouth

Confining Cows in Muddy Exercise Areas

The exercise area (paddock) is neglected and not cleaned. As a result, it becomes muddy, especially in cold weather. The cows are forced to stay in this muddy area every day.



Lungs removed from live pigs at physician technique seminar

Practice removing both lungs of a pig and killing

We were informed by a member of the academic society that at the “Respiratory Surgery Thoracoscopic Education Seminar” held by the Japanese Association for Chest Surgery (hereinafter JACS) for physicians co-sponsored by two companies, hands-on training using live pigs to remove both lungs and ultimately kill the pigs are being conducted.

With one pig assigned per two participants and about 30 students, this exercise, which sacrifices as many as 15 pigs each session, has been held at least 24 times.

A movement away from animal experiments in education

The trend away from animal experiments is becoming more widespread in education. Many veterinary and medical schools in Europe and the United States do not have animal sacrifice curricula. In addition, an increasing number of universities and medical centers in Europe and the U.S. are switching from animal-based methods to computer simulations and other methods for training physicians in procedures.

In Japan, unfortunately, there is no veterinary or medical school that does not have an animal-sacrificing curriculum, but Nara Medical University, for example, has taken JAVA’s point of view and eliminated all animal dissection practice and other two animal-based practice that was part of the medical student curriculum have been eliminated. (Please refer to [JAVA NEWS No.106 English ver.](#))

This seminar does not require practical training

In the case of the Respiratory Surgery Thoracoscopic Education Seminar, all participants are surgical specialists, and the requirement is that they have at least five years of clinical experience. They are required to attend the Respiratory Surgery Thoracoscopic Education Seminar in order to apply for certification as a board-certified respiratory surgeon. To apply for this certification, the applicant must have “more than 60 operations as a surgeon and more than 120 operations as an assistant”, which means that only physicians with a considerable amount of clinical experience attend the seminar. There should be no need to conduct practical training using animals more than medical students or young physicians.

It is impossible that the correct technique can be learned using an animal that is completely different from the patient. It is contrary to the principles of the 3Rs, causing unnecessary suffering to the animals, and costing the animals their lives.

No animal experiments protocol exists

Furthermore, the academic society does not have published rules for conducting animal experiments, and it is possible that animal experiments plans are not being drafted and animal experiments plans are not being reviewed by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). If they are carrying them out, then animal experiments that shows no 3Rs efforts are being reviewed and approved, which is evidence that the animal experiments committee of JACS is not functioning.

Doctors are the ones who should stop practicing that costs lives

If practical training is an essential part of the seminar, for example, the instructor could be present to supervise and guide the participants in the actual surgical procedures they will be performing. There are also other ways to not use live animals; for example, using donated bodies with gratitude. It is outrageous that doctors, whose profession and position is to respect life the most, would inflict pain and fear on animals and then take their lives in a seminar.

Society has no intention of stopping the use of pigs

In December 2023, JAVA strongly urged JACS not to use animals (living or cadaveric) in all seminars sponsored or co-sponsored by the Society, including the Respiratory Surgery Thoracoscopic Education Seminar.

The academic society responded that it had no intention of stopping the use of pigs. The reason for using pigs for the seminar was stated as follows: “In lung resections for radical treatment of lung cancer and other diseases, intraoperative deaths due to damage to the pulmonary artery have been experienced, although they are rare”. The reason for using pigs for the seminar was stated as “from the viewpoint that practical education is desirable for medical specialists”.

While we understand the need for practical education to minimize the rare accidents, we cannot understand the use of pigs in such education. Accidents that occur even among surgeons with abundant clinical experience must result from the slightest operational error, which is why very delicate and precise training is necessary, and the use of animals in seminars for practical training, which required such delicate and precise practice is inappropriate for medical skills training.

The response from the academic society also states that this is “transitional education until alternative educational methods are developed”, which, if taken positively, indicate that they are not going to continue using this pig method forever, but rather are thinking of switching to alternative educational methods if they find them. However, this is mere lip service if the academic society does not take the lead in developing and adopting alternative methods of education, and showing a willingness to make transition as soon as possible.

Stop using animals in the seminars

As the answer is far from satisfactory, JAVA has again requested the JACS to abolish the use of pigs. We want to ask you all to join us in this effort!

Japanese Association for Chest Surgery (JACS)

President, Ichiro Yoshino, M.D., Ph.D.

200 Takamiya-cho, Takakura-Oike-dori, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604-0835, Japan
Chiyoda Seimei Kyoto Oike building 3F

E-mail: jacs-office@jacsurg.gr.jp



<Revision of the Animal Welfare Act> Its progress and our requesting points

JAVA joins the coalition of diet members in the deliberations and discussions

At the time of the previous revision of “the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals” (hereinafter referred to as “the Animal Welfare Act”), “the coalition of diet members for zero disposal of dogs and cats” played a major role. The Animal Welfare Act revision project team (hereinafter PT), placed in the coalition, has been working towards the goal that the revised law will come into effect in 2025.

JAVA is actively taking actions such as lobbying in cooperation with the animal protection organizations “Animal Rights Center Japan” and “PEACE” as well as the last time, for the sake of revision. The three organizations work as a member of the PT’s advisory board.

The PT meetings were held eight times from August 2023 to March 2024 and will take place about twice a month in the future. Up until now, the meetings have mainly conducted hearings with stakeholders and experts on “urgent and temporary shelter systems for abused animals” and “the issue of ownership of animals removed from abusive owners”, and have been conducting studies and discussions.



PT leader Hideki Makihara, Member of the House of Representatives giving a speech at the 7th PT (held on March 18th, 2024)

Updating the revision requests constantly

Many animal protection organizations are lobbying for the revision of the Animal Welfare Act, but their requests are a little different from each other. We continue to review and improve the requests of our three organizations while exchanging opinions with other animal protection organizations.

Report on the 36th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments

We attended “The Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments”, held from November 27 to 29, 2023, at Chiba University, Nishi-Chiba Campus.

The theme was “The Endless Challenge of Alternatives to Animal Experiments”. With around 690 participants, it had the highest attendance ever. Here are some highlights from the sessions.

[Symposium] Developmental status and future prospects of alternative to animal experiments in the medical device field

At the beginning, the Chair explained the purpose of the symposium, saying, “This is our first in-depth discussion on medical devices. We’ve invited experts from the National Institute of Health Sciences to present. Animal experiments for medical devices covers safety, effectiveness/functionality, and physician training. As this is the first time, we’ll focus on safety”. Six researchers from the Institute made the following presentations.



- Development status and prospects of alternatives to animal testing for medical devices
- Current international status of the alternative methods to animal tests for irritation testing using reconstructed human epidermis for medical devices
- Development of alternative methods for skin sensitization animal tests
- Development of positive reference materials for in vivo and in vitro sensitization testing
- Alternatives to animal experiments with chemical analysis
- Current activities of international standardization on alternative test method for biological evaluation of medical devices

[Symposium] New development of alternatives to animal experiments utilizing device technologies

The Microphysiological System (MPS), a biomimetic system utilizing advanced cellular devices, has garnered significant attention for its potential as an alternative method in medical research. In this symposium, 5 experts presented their findings on this innovative technology.

Dr. Kiyoshi Ohnuma from the Department of Materials Science and Bioengineering, Nagaoka University of Technology presented his research titled “A general-purpose micro-physiological system: Gravity-driven and electric-assisted micro-uidic culture for human induced pluripotent stem cell assays”. His study, focusing

on user-friendliness in MPS applications, was particularly interesting. While much research focuses on high-performance MPS, Dr. Ohnuma's team aims to develop a general-purpose MPS that's as easy to use as commercial culture dishes. This approach emphasizes the ease of use and the ability to test multiple conditions simultaneously, rather than maximizing performance. Such user-oriented design could make MPS technology more accessible and widely applicable in research settings.

[Symposium] Latest challenges and progress in alternatives to animal testing in various fields

As part of the presentations on each industry initiatives, the pharmaceutical sector discussed the utilization of MPS and Artificial Intelligence (AI), as well as research on DNA vaccines. These DNA vaccines, which can be developed using only viral genetic information, hold the potential to reduce animal experiments. In the cosmetics field, there were presentations on challenges such as systemic toxicity testing, for which alternative methods have not yet been established.

A unique presentation came from researchers in the field of science and engineering, focusing on "cultured meat". They expressed the expectation that the techniques used in creating cultured meat could potentially be adapted for use in alternative methods to animal experiments.

[Luncheon Seminar] International trends and Japanese activities on the monocyte-activation test (MAT) as a replacement for the rabbit pyrogen test

The pyrogen test uses rabbits to determine the presence of substances that induce fever by raising body temperature internally.

According to Dr. Takao Ashikaga from the National Institute of Health Sciences, the European Pharmacopoeia included the in vitro test method monocyte activation test (MAT) in 2013. This test is recognized as an alternative to rabbit tests. Europe aims to cease rabbit testing and remove it from pharmacopoeias by the end of 2025.

It was explained that this movement is spreading internationally. India has already adopted it, and Brazil is taking a positive approach. There are views that the United States still faces challenges in this area. In China, MAT is being used as a supplementary test to rabbit-based tests. It was mentioned that Japan is also considering including MAT in its pharmacopoeia, but this process is expected to take time.

[Luncheon Seminar] WC12 Canada report (Panel discussion)

Researchers who attended the 12th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences (WC12), held in Canada in August, provided brief reports and shared their impressions through comments.

Over 800 participants from 40 countries attended, with over 20 participants from Japan. There were over 60 sessions, with the highest number of presentations focusing on MPS. There were comments appreciating the ongoing "Next Generation Education" session focused on young professionals, which ran throughout the conference, highlighting its impressive continuity.

Conversely, several participants voiced somewhat critical views, suggesting the conference leaned heavily towards animal welfare concerns, prioritized replacement strategies, and featured research aiming to switch

from animal-derived to plant-derived materials in antibody culture, which some found extreme. These perspectives highlight a potential disconnect between Japanese participants' perceptions and global trends shaping the field.

[Special Lecture] Most Rational but Long-Term Strategy to Eliminate Animal Experiments

Dr. Akihiro Hisaka's retirement lecture from the Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics Laboratory, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chiba University addressed recent advancements in MPS and iPS cell research, raising hopes for alternative methods. However, he expressed concern over unrealistic expectations, advocating for more rational thinking. Initially perceived as outdated, his lecture prompted a realization that his views were forward-thinking.

Dr. Hisaka's argument was grounded in the importance of foundational research: "With proper data collection, human digestive tract models can be developed. This could lead to the elimination of animal experiments. I believe that in 10 or 20 years, we will be able to make accurate predictions. However, there are few researchers who collect data properly in their research". He emphasized the need to value each piece of data in the process rather than merely accepting results that fit well. He stressed the importance of maintaining a fundamental approach and not forgetting one's initial goals, strongly stated this approach ultimately leads to significant achievements and potentially abolishing of animal experiments.

Fur News

An international coalition against fur, Fur Free Alliance (FFA), is made up about 50 animal protection organizations and JAVA is also a member of this coalition. The member organizations are working collaboratively to abolish fur.

JAVA NEWS No.112 carried the following news including FFA's Max Mara campaign which JAVA also joined.

[**ANIMAL PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS WORLDWIDE TARGET MAX MARA OVER USE OF FUR**](#)

[**LITHUANIA BECOMES 20TH COUNTRY TO BAN FUR FARMING**](#)

[**Aeffe Group goes fur-free**](#)

[**ONE VOICE SUPPORTS ELLE AGAINST THE FURRIERS' UNION**](#)

News from other countries

In these pages, we introduced some news articles selected from the newsletters and email news sent from overseas organizations. JAVA NEWS No.112 carries the following articles. These were translated into Japanese to share them with the readers.

You can read the original articles appeared in JAVA NEWS No.112 at the URL below:

[Winning Protections for Cephalopods \(PCRM\)](#)

[A ban on cages that applies to imports? California makes it a reality \(Eurogroup for Animals\)](#)

[VIDEO: How PETA Found a Home for a Hound Exploited by a Blood Bank \(PETA\)](#)

[Video: Hundreds of Cats and Dogs Bled , Warehoused Until Death at Blood Bank Supplying Major Veterinary Chains \(PETA\)](#)

JAVA NEWS No.112 English ver. published on October 30, 2024

JAPAN ANTI-VIVISECTION ASSOCIATION (JAVA)

Seiou #703 29-31 Sakuragaoka-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0031 JAPAN

Phone: 81 (3) 5456-9311 Fax: 81 (3) 5456-1011

E-mail: java@java-animal.org URL: <https://www.java-animal.org/>