

Physicians
Committee
for Responsible Medicine
PCRM.org

CLASSIFIED

**FORCED TO SERVE:
STOP THE ANIMAL DRAFT**

5100 WISCONSIN AVE., NW, STE. 400 • WASHINGTON, DC 20016 • WWW.PCRM.ORG

FORCED TO SERVE: STOP THE ANIMAL DRAFT

Each year, more than 8,500 goats and pigs are used in combat trauma training courses conducted for U.S. military personnel. In many of the courses, animals are shot or stabbed or their limbs are amputated in an attempt to mimic battlefield wounds. At the end of the course, the trainees kill their wounded animal patients. This trauma training is conducted on as many as 15 U.S. military facilities, including Fort Bragg and Fort Sam Houston, as well as in facilities run by private contractors.

PCRM is determined to stop this abuse.

About the Campaign

We've launched Forced to Serve: Stop the Animal Draft to raise funds and rally support for PCRM's efforts to get the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to do the right thing — for animals, for military medical personnel, and for soldiers on the front lines — by stopping its use of live animals in combat trauma training.

It's absurd to think that with readily available human simulators and other technologies, injuring and killing animals is the most effective way to train our troops for the battlefield. Using animals so cruelly in the name of education is just wrong — innocent animals are suffering for no reason. Plus research supports that simulators are better training tools than live animals!

PCRM achieved its first major step forward in the fight to stop the abuse of animals in the U.S. military in 2009 when the U.S. House of Representatives introduced the Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training (BEST) Practices Act. This act called for an end to the use of pigs and goats in combat training courses and monkeys in chemical casualty management courses.

More successes followed, including the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs issuing a memo ending the use of animals in six specific areas of military medical training. But that announcement did not address the largest area of animals use — combat trauma training — where people continue to cling to the past and outdated practices. Convincing them will take the help of every PCRM member.

Forced to Serve: Stop the Animal Draft will generate the resources we need to demonstrate that both science and public opinion strongly favor saving animals from unnecessary suffering and death at the hands of the U.S. military.

PCRM has come a long way and this is our moment to make real change happen. Forced to Serve: Stop the Animal Draft will give our efforts the boost they need to make real headway in the coming year.



Forced to Serve: Stop the Animal Draft

PCRM's campaign to save animals from cruelty at the hands of our nation's military medical personnel is at a critical stage. We are counting on the support of our most dedicated members to help us stop this disturbing and cruel use of animals once and for all.

Please keep reading to see how you can help . . .

Drafted for Death

Every year, more than 8,500 pigs and goats are injured and killed in combat trauma training exercises. That's nearly one animal every hour!

In these courses, trainees are being taught to:

- Chop off the legs of live goats one by one to cause severe hemorrhaging.
- Cut the throats of live pigs to create a surgical airway.
- Insert plastic tubes between the ribs of pigs and into the chest cavity.

The suffering these animals go through is unimaginable — some animals are even shot, stabbed, and burned to mimic battlefield wounds. The ultimate fate of each of these animals is the same: **death**.

Equally distressing, even before the animals face these horrible procedures, they spend their lives in confinement — caged, shipped, and awaiting their fate.

These innocent animals suffer from birth to death. They need our help.

A Better Way

Senselessly killing animals to teach doctors, nurses, and medics is not only wrong — it is not the most effective way to teach how to save human lives. Cutting into an animal does not replicate performing a procedure on a wounded soldier. Compared with people, goats and pigs have smaller torsos and limbs, thicker skin, and important differences in the anatomy of the head and neck, internal organs, rib cage, blood vessels, and airway.

Some of the most important elements of combat trauma training are realism, human-specific injuries and treatments, volume of trauma exposure, and team building. Rather than trying to learn emergency medical procedures on unconscious animals that can be used only once, the ideal training would use readily available medical simulators in an environment that replicates the stressful nature of a combat zone. These simulators allow the procedure to be repeated until mastered.

These technologies exist. For example, the “Cut Suit” was specifically designed for combat training and replicates the experience of performing emergency procedures on a living trauma patient. Body armor and a uniform can be worn by a patient actor and the trainees can apply tourniquets, control severe bleeding, and manage collapsed lungs. The simulation provides a much more relevant training experience for our troops, and would save thousands of animal lives each year.

What do soldiers think about using pigs in combat trauma training?

“We have entered into an age where artificial simulator models are at least equivalent to, if not superior to, animal models.”

— Maj. Andrew Hall, M.D.,
USAF MC, Department of
Surgery, Keesler Air Force Base



“I don't think it's necessary, and I think it will end up doing more harm than good — especially from the standpoint of soldier psychology ... we don't need desensitized, unfeeling killing machines. And when you do stuff like this, that's what you're developing.”

— Brandon Friedman,
former Army infantry officer
who served in
Afghanistan and Iraq

Positioned for Success

After years of campaigning by PCRM to urge the Department of Defense to stop harming and killing animals in medical training programs, animal use in some areas of military medical training was replaced by superior human-relevant methods. The change took effect on January 1st of this year, saving many animal lives.

The military has taken several other strides away from animal use:

- Last year, the Coast Guard committed to severely reducing animal use in combat trauma training exercises, sparing the lives of thousands of animals.
- In 2013, after more than 20 years of pressure from PCRM, the military's medical school that trains new military physicians stopped using animals.

Now it's time for the Department of Defense to take the next natural step by ending animal use in all combat trauma training.

PCRM has worked with Congress to fight for passage of the bipartisan Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training (BEST) Practices Act, which will require all military branches to switch to more humane, cost-effective, and efficient training.

We're also eagerly awaiting results of the Combat Casualty Training Consortium, funded by the Department of Defense to compare animal use to human-relevant methods.

Your support of this critical campaign will help us ramp up our efforts to:

- Enlist veterans to speak on behalf of nonanimal training methods.
- File federal complaints and conduct public awareness campaigns when military bases conduct new training exercises using animals.
- Continue our petition drive with a goal of delivering more than 50,000 petitions to the DoD in the coming year.

But as every PCRM member knows, change does not often come easy. To win this fight, more pressure will be needed and PCRM will rely on *Forced to Serve: Stop the Animal Draft* to demonstrate citizen support for ending the needless killing of animals in military combat trauma training courses.



Tell the Department of Defense to stop training on animals!

Go to www.PCRM.org/DoD to help us convince the Department of Defense to end this cruel and outdated practice.



Please keep reading to see how you can help . . .

You're Critical to the Campaign

Help PCRM save animals and improve military medicine — respond by December 31, 2015.

For years, PCRM has urged the Department of Defense to do the right thing for people and for animals by transitioning to superior human-relevant methods within its medical training programs, and we've been making steady progress.

Our success positions us for the final hurdle — ending the use of live animals in all military combat trauma training courses. That is why we launched Forced to Serve: Stop the Animal Draft to help bring an end to all animal abuse and death throughout the U.S. military. With your help, we seek to raise \$100,000 before December 31, 2015 — this will give us the resources needed to escalate our efforts in this campaign and continue all our lifesaving work on behalf of animals and people.

With the military planning to kill more than 8,500 pigs and goats next year, we must act swiftly and we need your help. Please don't wait. These animals are counting on us!

Please help PCRM take this fight to the next level by supporting Forced to Serve: Stop the Animal Draft with a campaign gift before December 31, 2015.

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR SUPPORT

Enjoy your **FREE**
PCRM First Aid Kit
when you send
your gift before
December 31, 2015.



See link in e-mail for more details.

Thank you for your support!



Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

5100 WISCONSIN AVE., NW, STE. 400 • WASHINGTON, DC 20016 • WWW.PCRM.ORG • 202-686-2210