

Mayor Emily Francis and Members of the Fort Collins City Council
City Hall
300 Laporte Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Dear Mayor Francis and Members of the Fort Collins City Council,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to pass the proposed ordinance regarding animal testing in Fort Collins.

Fort Collins has long been recognized as a community that values compassion, scientific innovation, and ethical leadership. Adopting this resolution would reaffirm those values while encouraging the transition to modern research methods that are more predictive of human biology and less dependent on animal suffering.

Bronco Research Services, an Inotiv company located in Fort Collins, conducts preclinical testing on dogs and other animals for pharmaceutical and medical device development. Recent USDA inspection reports highlight why this issue deserves your attention. **In March 2026, two beagles died after being given an unnecessarily high dose of an experimental substance as part of a research study at the Fort Collins facility. USDA cited the facility for a critical violation of the Animal Welfare Act related to the deaths. Just a few months ago, Red Beast Enterprises shut down after undercover video showed the abuse that happens at beagle testing labs. Bronco Research Services is just the latest to get caught. These facilities have no place in our community.**

Beagles are commonly used in laboratories because of their docile temperament, meaning they rarely show aggression, even to those who harm them. This makes beagles particularly vulnerable to a system that treats them as laboratory tools rather than sentient individuals. These incidents underscore the reality that beagles used in experiments can suffer severe consequences, including death, during testing.

The problem extends beyond what happens inside the laboratory here in Fort Collins. Facilities like Bronco have historically purchased research dogs from commercial breeders, including Marshall BioResources, a multinational factory farm that breeds dogs, ferrets, and other animals for experiments. Whistleblowers at the New York Marshall BioResources facility alleged that cages were cleaned only once every two weeks, and that puppies were often found dead in their own feces. The whistleblower provided photo and video evidence, and the facility has been cited numerous times for violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

Fortunately, the future is already here. The City of Fort Collins can foster innovation by limiting cruel and unnecessary testing on beagles, which will free funding and laboratory space for modern methods.

Today, researchers have access to rapidly advancing alternatives that can often provide data more relevant to humans (or the medicine's target species) than traditional animal models. These include:

- Human cell- and tissue-based testing systems including organoids and organs-on-chips that replicate the function of human tissues.
- Advanced computer modeling and artificial intelligence that can predict toxicity and drug interactions.
- High-throughput screening technologies that evaluate thousands of compounds without using animals.
- Carefully designed clinical research using human volunteers and patient-derived tissues when appropriate.

Federal agencies, including the FDA and NIH, have increasingly recognized these technologies as essential components of modern drug development, and Congress has encouraged reducing reliance on animal testing where scientifically appropriate. These innovations have the potential to improve patient safety while reducing costs, accelerating drug development, and preventing animal suffering.

Fort Collins has an opportunity to demonstrate that compassion and scientific progress are not competing values—they reinforce one another.

I hope Fort Collins restricts testing on beagles because:

Thank you for your service to our community and for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Zipcode: _____