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Kia ora

I am writing to you to express my concerns that beagle dogs are being bred for research in the Hastings area. As aired on the "60 Minutes" programme in August this year, researcher Allen Goldenthal of Valley Animal Research is raising beagles for experiments on his property in Whakatu. It appears that he also plans to breed cats, horses and rabbits for experimentation. More information about Goldenthal's beagle experiments can be found at <http://www.varc.org.nz>.

The 2006 animal use figures indicate that a total of 318,489 live animals were used for animal research in New Zealand last year. These included 757 cats and 682 dogs. The use of cats and dogs for research in New Zealand has doubled since 2001.

Like many other New Zealanders, I am totally opposed to cruel animal experiments. As the MP for the electorate of Tukituki, I am asking you to discuss the issue of animal experimentation with your colleagues in the National Party. With the election coming up this year, I would like your party to state that if a National Government is elected, you will announce an immediate moratorium on all beagle research and also pass into law provisions prohibiting the use of cats or dogs for experimentation.

I look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely