

# The Northern Virginia Daily

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## Commentary: PETA sets the record straight

By Alka Chandna, Ph.D. Mar 25, 2025



In a recent commentary, John Massoud, chair of the 6th Congressional District Republican Committee, admonished PETA, but respectfully, Chairman Massoud is late to this party.

For clarity, it was through PETA's efforts that Massoud can complain about the heinous government-funded, \$241 million experiments that forced animals through gender reassignment surgeries. PETA was the first to uncover one such experiment in 2022. PETA also stopped it, another fact Massoud may be unaware of.

Readers may see PETA Senior Vice President Kathy Guillermo talking with former Fox host Tucker Carlson about the inane cruelty of this very study. "It's an experiment that even an eighth-grade science student can figure out is totally meaningless," Guillermo said in the segment that aired three years ago.

PETA is, and always has been, fervently non-partisan. We take no political position, stand on neither side of any aisle, and PETA contributes to no political campaign — Republican, Democrat, Independent, or otherwise.

PETA opposes all experiments on animals, full stop. That includes the taxpayer-funded and scientifically worthless transgender study Massoud mentions, but it also includes every other experiment in every laboratory anywhere around the globe that terrifies, torments, and kills animals for pointless research.

PETA stands with the animals. That's the only side we've chosen. Just as no suffering animal has a political affiliation, neither does PETA.

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Since our inception, PETA has been the tip of the spear for animal liberation — exposing and challenging wasteful government spending on misguided research. Holding the National Institutes of Health (NIH) accountable for its reckless funding of cruel and unnecessary studies is a cornerstone of our work, which has included targeting a decades-long, taxpayer-funded set of NIH experiments inflicting permanent brain damage on monkeys and terrifying them with lifelike snakes and spiders, and ending NIH experiments in which baby monkeys were torn from their mothers.

With our groundbreaking undercover investigation that blew the lid off neglect, intense confinement, suffering and death at Envigo's massive beagle-breeding facility in Cumberland, Virginia, PETA helped spark a historic domino effect that paved the way for the closure of the dog prison and the rescue of 4,000 dogs. Robust, human-based research methods, including epidemiological studies, clinical trials, and behavioral research, can already provide human-relevant data without subjecting animals to painful, invasive, and deadly procedures. Killing animals does not help anyone.

PETA scientists have developed the first and only comprehensive strategy, Research Modernization Now, for ending all experiments on animals,

All human beings need beneficial treatments and cures. But none will come from the antiquated barbarity of animal experimentation. Our government cannot afford to waste taxpayer dollars on pointless cruelty to animals — on that, both Republicans and Democrats can agree.

PETA stands ready to work with Massoud — or anyone — regardless of political affiliation, committed to the compassionate and responsible stewardship of public money for animal-free research.

*Alka Chandna, Ph.D. serves as PETA's vice president of Laboratory Oversight and Special Cases. She lives in Washington, D.C.*



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## Upcoming Events

- MAR 20** Riley Foundation of Hope birthday cake program  
Fri, Mar 20, 2026
- MAR 20** Samuels Library  
Fri, Mar 20, 2026  
Samuels Public Library
- MAR 20** New Market Library story times  
Fri, Mar 20, 2026  
New Market Area Library
- MAR 20** Embassy Outreach Ministries food pantry  
Fri, Mar 20, 2026  
Embassy Outreach Ministries
- MAR 20** Front Royal food pantry  
Fri, Mar 20, 2026  
Embassy Outreach Ministries
- MAR 21** Adventures Beyond the Fall  
Sat, Mar 21, 2026  
Youth Development Center
- MAR 23** Humane Society drop box  
Mon, Mar 23, 2026  
Goodwill
- MAR 24** Woodstock food pantry  
Tue, Mar 24, 2026  
My Church

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