

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please forgive the rather impersonal salutation to this letter but this is an issue on which I need to communicate quickly and broadly.

As you may be aware, HLS has been the subject of an aggressive animal rights extremist campaign for the last 6 years led by an organisation named Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). The campaign has been characterised by lies, misrepresentation, harassment, intimidation and the occasional act of violence. We are now aware that SHAC are about to announce what they term a "new exposé". We believe that your company is on their mailing list of contacts for this "exposé", hence this communication.

This supposed exposé is a matter that we have been aware of for some months now. At its centre are two individuals that we dismissed in January of this year after approximately 12 months employment. The individuals were aggrieved at their dismissal and, as a result, chose to communicate with SHAC. We have copies of documentation they provided to SHAC. SHAC agreed to pay them for this documentation.

Since that time we have taken the following action:

- We discussed the situation with the individuals concerned at the time and they confirmed in a letter to us that SHAC manipulated them and changed the text of the documentation provided by them. I quote from their letter (attached):

"Subsequently that representative (of SHAC) returned a typed script to us which they said was a typed version of the manuscript notes that we made. This was not the case. Indeed it transpired that additional material was added which attempted to reflect your company in a bad light and in particular, from the point of view of animal welfare. We were not happy with this and concluded that we could not proceed in this matter.

In fact we consider that the animal welfare standards at HLS are very high.

..... we deeply regret the brief dealings we had with SHAC and the manner in which they attempted to manipulate the situation".

- We made the Home Office Inspectorate aware of the allegations. The Home Office determined not to take any further action at that time.
- Our Certificate Holder, who is an internationally recognised veterinarian, carried out his own investigation and concluded that there were no specific animal welfare issues verified which needed to be further pursued.

- Our Director of Quality Assurance (QA) also carried out a GLP focused investigation based on the original documentation as well as a review of all the inspections carried out by QA over that time period and determined that there were no issues that would indicate any compromise to our high levels of compliance.
- We have used this incident to re-emphasize the importance of our high standards of animal welfare. We also reinforced the ability of all members of staff to use our own "whistle blower" system to raise any issues that may be of concern to them.

As well as liaising with the Police on this issue we are now also considering whether further legal action is appropriate.

Please rest assured that this "exposé" is yet another example of the shameful tactics used by the SHAC campaign in order to misrepresent our organisation and its high standards of animal welfare. We are regularly inspected not only by the Home Office but also by our customers. We have also recently been re-accredited by AAALAC (the Association for the Assessment of Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care) who commended us for our animal housing standards and our "culture of care" for the research animals we use.

We believe that you may be contacted by SHAC supporters in the near future and we hope that the information contained in this letter will enable you to put their allegations in a true light and dismiss them completely.

Thank you for your understanding and if you have any questions at all on this issue please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Cass", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Brian Cass CBE
Managing Director