

BOB BARKER

Bob Barker Productions Inc.

9201 Wilshire Blvd.

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

April 24, 2013

Mark Stephen Wrighton, Chancellor
Washington University in St. Louis
Campus Box 1192
One Brookings Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63130

Dear Chancellor Wrighton,

Having grown up in Missouri and having interrupted my wife's pre-med training at Washington University in St. Louis by proposing to her, I was deeply troubled to see PETA's new undercover video showing that Washington University—in conjunction with St. Louis Children's Hospital—continues to allow Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) course trainees to practice on animals. This crude training exercise consists of repeatedly forcing hard tubes down the cats' delicate throats, an extremely painful procedure that places these animals at risk for serious injuries—and for no good reason. Far superior teaching methods exist that can run circles around that old-fashioned cat lab. **I would like to work with you to end this practice.**

You may know that the American Heart Association, which created and sponsors that PALS course, has stated: “We do not endorse or require the use of animals during the AHA-PALS training because of advances and availability of simulation mannequins.”

I understand that your PALS course employs low-tech manikins and that you are *not* using the state-of-the-art pediatric simulators available, although my PETA friends tell me that you do possess some at your Saigh Pediatric Simulation Center. I can only surmise that this is because you do not have enough of them to go around.

I would like to donate two ultra-realistic infant simulators to WUSTL to be used in place of the two cats intubated during each PALS course so as to facilitate the transition to an all-simulation PALS curriculum.

After consulting with the real experts on simulators, two options I recommend are [BabySIM](#) and [SimBaby](#). Unlike cats, these strikingly realistic simulators faithfully replicate *human* infant anatomy and physiology. They cry, breathe, cough, squirm, and have audible heart sounds and a pulse. They even simulate difficulties that occur when intubating real human babies. In 2009, when the Heartland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph, Mo., switched from cats to SimBaby for PALS training, it issued this statement: “One of the issues is that any time you do training, you want to use best practices. For many years, that was live cats, but now we have these simulators [that] very closely simulate what happens in a child. ... This probably is the closest we've seen to a representation of a live situation.” The St. Louis University School of Medicine also uses BabySIM for its PALS course and recently published a study showing that training on BabySIM substantially improved PALS trainees' intubation skills.

Two of either of these simulators will cost approximately \$75,000. It would be my pleasure to cover the cost in order to enhance your training programs and spare the cats now housed in your facility. In fact, I would love to provide homes for the nine cats held at WUSTL for this training, too.

I hope we can work together to protect animals and improve the training of those responsible for performing life-saving medical procedures on sick and injured children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Barker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bob Barker