

Dear Members of the Lincoln University Animal Ethics Committee,

I was appalled to find out about the research involving the fistulation of cows that had been approved by your committee. Instead of permitting cruel experiments like this, you could be utilising more progressive research methods.

Fistulation is flawed and unnecessary because:

- Many of the experiments are inconclusive or the results obtained are not useful;
- There are alternatives such as buccal swabs;
- There is no need for humans to consume meat or dairy and avoiding animal products is a much simpler and more effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve water quality than carrying out complicated and expensive experiments that cause animal suffering.
- Research has shown cows suffer greatly for around 11 days from the procedure. With many experiments inconclusive or not useful, there should be at the very least a shift away from fistulation.

I am urging your committee to:

- Decline any future application involving the fistulation of animals.
- Actively help get more funding put into non-animal-based research, testing and teaching methods.

Thank you.