



AN OPEN LETTER FROM SAFER HUMAN MEDICINE TO THE RESIDENTS OF DECATUR COUNTY

Dear Local Residents:

By now you may have heard that a new business is moving into the county called Safer Human Medicine (SHM). We are excited about bringing good-paying jobs to the Decatur County-City of Bainbridge area. It is our mission to demonstrate our commitment to being a good neighbor, and we are incredibly grateful for the warm welcome we have already received from members of the community.

One thing we want this community to know is that we are not about “corporate speak.” We believe in the work we do and are passionate about its purpose in saving human lives. Being straightforward with people and letting them know what to expect from us is paramount, especially when we set up shop just miles down the road from your homes, schools, and businesses.

SHM was formed with one specific purpose in mind: to help make sure that medical research in the United States is not slowed because scientists and researchers do not have access to non-human primates (meaning cynomolgus macaques, which are a breed of monkeys best suited for medical research). In the aftermath of the pandemic, we learned the hard way that our researchers in the U.S. need reliable access to healthy primates to develop and evaluate the safety of potentially life-saving drugs and therapies for you, your family, your friends, and neighbors. Many of the medicines in your medical cabinets today would not exist without this essential medical research and without these primates, research comes to a halt.

The health and welfare of animals under our care is our top priority. We are building state-of-the-art facilities with plenty of space, air, and light. This is not a research facility and is strictly an animal husbandry facility meant to house and care for primates (see attached photos). Animals will be housed in groups so that they can interact and play with one another. We will provide them with toys, opportunities for foraging and other forms of enrichment. We will supplement their diet with fresh local produce straight from the surrounding community. The welfare of our animals will always come first, and we will provide them with the care they deserve.

While we respect the views of those who may not agree with our purpose, we think it is important to share the facts with this community. Given their genetic similarity to humans, primates provide the most reliable model to demonstrate how a drug will impact our biological systems. No one would ever imagine giving a drug to a family member, a loved one, or anyone else battling a disease or needing medical attention unless it had been thoroughly evaluated for safety. Science has not yet advanced to the point where we have reliable alternatives, and each drug is required by law to undergo safety testing in primates. Primates have been used to support research that has led to the development of therapies

for diseases such as cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and many others. We all depend on these critical primates to save the lives of our loved ones and ourselves.

There can often be a lot of misinformation surrounding animal research. Our goal is to provide you with the facts and accurate information about our purpose and new facility's operations. With that in mind, we have included a "Questions and Answers" list with this letter. It is not intended to tell you what to think, but to help you gain a better understanding of what we do at SHM and address the major questions you might have around our business. Should you have any questions, you can reach us at Questions@saferhm.com.

We look forward to being a great neighbor as we get to know you all in the community. We chose Decatur County and the City of Bainbridge to be our home because of the outstanding location, hospitable environment, and most importantly, the quality of its people.

Sincerely,

Jim Harkness

Jim Harkness
CEO, Safer Human Medicine

Dave Johst

Dave Johst
President, Safer Human Medicine

ANSWERS TO COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION: Why did Safer Human Medicine (SHM) choose to set up its operation in Bainbridge and Decatur County?

ANSWER: After reviewing 13 sites in 6 different states, we wanted to highlight the attractive features that impacted our decision to select Bainbridge and Decatur County as the future home for Safer Human Medicine. Some key elements include:

Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant and growing community with an attractive downtown and commitment to investing for the future • Affordable housing, strong school systems, and a wide choice of recreational activities • Strong workforce within a 60-minute radius that is supportive of animals and their important role in everyday life • Desire for high paying jobs to retain workforce within the county • The people we’ve met have all been pleasant and inviting giving us a positive feel for the community
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical college training and internship programs in veterinary and animal husbandry • Partnerships with high school and business to incorporate skills needed for future employment • Employee training assistance willing to custom design programs to support business needs • 3 veterinary schools within a 4-hour drive
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed investment in roadways, municipal systems, and availability of all necessary utilities
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to airports and major interstates and highways for ease of access • Low risk zone for severe weather events
Business Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Economic Development Council extremely innovative in targeting industries that are trying to address U.S. supply chain needs • Local business support/partnership (hotels, restaurants, produce, animal feed/bedding, equipment) • Vast number of construction contractors in the area

SHM is excited to become a key contributor to an already thriving economic community. We are planning to invest approximately \$270 million over the next 15+ years in infrastructure along with hiring over 250 people to support our operations. We are committed to being an active supporter of the local community through opportunities such as educational collaborations, co-ops, and internships. In addition to jobs, one of SHM’s core values is to prioritize purchasing to support local businesses.

QUESTION: Do non-human primates (NHPs) carry diseases that would put the citizens of Decatur County at risk?

ANSWER: The NHPs housed in SHM's facility will not pose a threat to the citizens of Decatur County or the surrounding community. Any animal that enters our site will or will have gone through a very rigorous quarantine program, which is defined and monitored by the CDC based in Georgia.

QUESTION: How are animals transferred to and from your site?

ANSWER: All NHPs must be transported by specialized, climate-controlled carriers that are USDA licensed and follow very strict guidelines to ensure the safety and containment of the animals on board. Each NHP is housed in an individual, secured compartment during transfer and transit.

QUESTION: Will NHPs housed in your facilities regularly escape and roam the surrounding community?

ANSWER: The NHPs at SHM's facilities will be housed in large animal enclosures inside our secure buildings. These enclosures are not only designed to make the NHPs under our care feel safe and comfortable, but also to prevent animal escape. Our facilities are built to give NHP's access to the outside air and sunlight they enjoy. Our facility has several safeguards to prevent escape, including a unique building design that incorporates double barriers throughout each building. In the unlikely event an animal gets out of its enclosure, our building design will not permit two doors leading to the exterior to be opened simultaneously, preventing an animal from getting out of the building.

QUESTION: Is it true that NHPs are loud, smelly, and will be a nuisance to the surrounding community?

ANSWER: NHPs make little to no noise. These NHPs have very little odor given their smaller size and our regular husbandry practices. There will be no detectable noise or odor that will impact the surrounding community.

QUESTION: Are NHPs large and potentially dangerous to the community?

ANSWER: The NHPs housed at our facility typically weigh between 5-10 pounds. These are cynomolgus macaques, not gorillas, chimpanzees, or baboons.

QUESTION: Why are animals needed in research?

ANSWER: While the scientific community makes every effort to minimize the use of animals, at certain stages of medical research projects, a living organism must be tested to show that it is safe before a drug or treatment is approved for human trials. For human trials of new drugs or treatments to proceed, by law, there must be appropriate animal testing completed.

QUESTION: Aren't there other alternatives to using animals in research?

ANSWER: There are a few alternatives to animal research that are utilized whenever they are scientifically sound. Examples include cell-culture techniques and computer modeling. However, human systems are so complex that we have only scratched the surface of understanding the trillions of cellular interactions. Alternative research methods cannot reproduce the interactions of a drug with the intact, whole-living biological system of a research animal. Equally as important, alternative research methods cannot reveal the potential complications or the dangerous side effects that a drug intended to treat a specific condition might have on other organs or systems that are not targeted.

Recognizing this, U.S. laws and regulations governing research require proof of safety and effectiveness through testing in NHPs and other animal models before any studies on humans are allowed to begin. NHPs are used in research to advance scientific understanding, to develop therapies and cures for disease, and to protect the safety of humans.

QUESTION: Aren't research animals abused and mistreated?

ANSWER: If animals are not well-treated, the science and knowledge gained from animal-based studies will not be trustworthy and cannot be replicated. Veterinarians, caretakers, and researchers view their work with research animals as a privilege. They fully understand that they are legally, and morally, obligated to ensure the health and well-being of animals under their care.

QUESTION: Isn't animal research scientific fraud since animals and humans are different?

ANSWER: There are many similarities between humans and animals. NHPs share more than 98% of DNA with humans. NHPs are used because of their similar genetic makeup and therefore are the best model for predicting how these drugs will interact in a human system.

QUESTION: Do you need to use NHPs in research? Rats and mice work just as well.

ANSWER: NHP's account for less than 1% of the total number of animals used in research annually. Rats and mice account for 95%. However, research using rodents can only advance science so far; it has limitations. Certain types of research require the responsible use of NHPs.

Human biology and disease can best be studied in NHPs because of their similarity to humans. NHPs have similar brains, muscle structure, reproductive and immune systems, and other physical attributes. This means that research conducted using NHPs gives us results that are much more relevant to humans compared to information that might be obtained from a rat or a mouse.

NHP's are needed to support a wide range of research activities where rodents fall short. Examples include the study of neurological disorders like Parkinson's disease, reproduction research, vaccine development, and organ transplantation.

QUESTION: Has animal research resulted in any scientific benefits?

ANSWER: Countless scientific benefits have resulted from animal research. Without animal research, we would not have chemotherapy drugs for cancer, high blood pressure medication, the ability to

perform organ transplants, insulin drugs for those with diabetes, artificial joint replacements, drugs such as penicillin and other antibiotics, pacemakers, vaccines for COVID, polio, measles, rubella, and tetanus, and hundreds of other medical advances.

QUESTION: Does animal research only benefit humans?

ANSWER: Animal research not only benefits humans, but also plays a key role in the development of veterinary medicines for livestock, pets, and animals residing in zoos and sanctuaries.

QUESTION: Is it considered immoral to use animals in research?

ANSWER: To the contrary, we believe it is immoral to allow humans and animals to suffer from disease and illness. The use of animals in human and veterinary research is viewed by those involved as a scientifically justifiable means to an end that must be preserved to ensure that humans and animals don't have to needlessly endure disease and suffering.

QUESTION: Will any wastewater discharge from the SHM facility present an environmental hazard?

ANSWER: Nothing discharged from our facility will create an environmental hazard or risk. Most of our wastewater comes from regularly washing down our animal enclosures so that we can lay dry bedding and give our NHPs a clean space to forage, eat and play. We will work closely with the City of Bainbridge to make certain that, much like other farms, our natural animal waste is properly treated and properly disposed of so that it presents no environmental risk to our neighbors.

