

VA / DoD animal testing not "valid" for burn pit exposures

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Tags 

Recently, it came to light that the VA uses animals for medical testing. While many find this practice egregious in its own right, we have now discovered that the VA and the Institute of Medicine are REFUSING to utilize animals for any testing that would identify and confirm that exposures to burn pit emissions is lethal to humans. They both go so far as to deny this particular form of testing that may provide a clear path of service-connection for the hundreds of thousands of affected veterans.

The DoD and VA are systematically denying all connections between the use of open-air burn pits in combat zones; and over 100,000 U.S. service members falling ill from "unexplainable" diseases. Thousands have succumbed to their injuries, yet their families are still denied that closure of the federal government accepting responsibility for their actions.

It is not the first time that the VA has spoken out of both sides of its proverbial face. Secretary David Shulkin openly defends the practice of utilizing animals for medical testing; "...If this legislation passes the Senate, it would stop potential VA canine research-related medical advancements that offer seriously disabled veterans the hope of a better future...".

He actually mentions specific studies they are conducting into respiratory ailments, (one of the many injuries from burn pit exposures that the VA continues to deny service connection for); "...VA's canine research program represents a great example of why the department exists, as one of our current canine research studies illustrates. The study focuses on ways to prevent serious and potentially fatal lung infections that affect some veterans with spinal cord injuries because they are unable to cough effectively...". <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/09/12/secretary-veterans-affairs-canine-research-too-important-end-david-shulkin-column/654259001/>

Over seven years ago, the VA's own (former) policy director issued the Environmental Training Letter. That document specifically outlines the claim and healthcare processes for all veterans exposed to burn pits. To date, less than a handful of affected veterans have actually been successfully rated for "burn pit exposures".

The VA and the DoD have colluded for more than a decade to deny injured veterans benefits after they were exposed to toxic emissions. Now the VA wants to keep its animal testing privileges' but STILL refuses to consider that these very same tests would be "valid" in consideration of burn pit exposures. We can only wonder when our nation will decide that the VA cannot have its cake and eat it too.

Very respectfully,

“One Family, One Fight”
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1 Attachments

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