

The Beagle Freedom Deception Project

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These days, one can hardly turn on the news, browse the internet or scan a newspaper without being subjected to unrealistic extremist ideologies about how people and animals should interact and inhabit the earth. It's the world according to zealots, and they prey upon our compassion and ignorance to deceive us into living our lives according to their rules, regardless of the harm caused to us and our animals. Few in the animal rights industry have captured as much public attention in recent years as the Beagle Freedom Project (BFP). BFP has convinced the public that its mission is simply to find homes for research dogs after studies are complete. This is not true. Its ultimate agenda is to outlaw animal-based research as quickly as possible because it doesn't believe our work is still necessary. Why does the public believe this? Because we haven't told them the truth for decades and people don't trust us.

BFP acquires our dogs through deceptive practices and uses them as 'ambassadors' before the media, telling the public that we neglect and mistreat them. It says our dogs don't get names, toys, human touch, exercise, playtime, companionship or proper nutrition and veterinary care from us. What viewers see while BFP recites this nonsense are healthy, playful, well-socialized dogs. Why does the public listen to this? Because we haven't shown them the truth for decades and people don't trust us.

People and animals have been shaping the world together for centuries. The bond between us is natural, and from a universal perspective, I don't believe that animals and people can survive without each other. The domestication of animals has been a cornerstone of our survival together, and we rely on each other for companionship,

food, work, entertainment and medical advances. We have been partners in life since the beginning of time, honoring a tacit covenant to protect and provide for each other, and we have improved the quality of countless lives together throughout history.

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Our relationship with dogs is especially powerful, and many of us bond more strongly with 'man's best friend' than we do with other animals. Explanations of this are immaterial. It is what it is. We love them and they love us and our desire to nurture them is exceptionally strong. We play together, work together, eat together and sleep together. We also cure diseases together. Studies with dogs are helping us understand and treat a variety of cancers, along with numerous cardiovascular, metabolic, joint, skeletal, muscular, neurologic and even cognitive disorders. Their help with vaccine development and gene therapies to fight viral, bacterial and parasitic threats is also notable, and we are grateful to them for the improved health and well-being that we and our pets continue to enjoy as a result of their contributions to biomedical progress. Many dogs lose their lives for this information, and to us in the research community, they are heroes, just like every man who loses his life for another. We

know that our time together is temporary, and we bond strongly with our dogs while they are with us. We name them. We play with them. We shower them with affection. And when it is their time to leave us, we stay with them, consoling them until their final breath. And then we grieve... for days, weeks, sometimes years. This is our work. It is human. It is loving. And it is necessary.

Not all studies are terminal, however, and we are thrilled when we can find permanent homes for our dogs. The research community has been rehoming dogs and other research animals for over 40 years. We have found homes for thousands of dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, pigs, sheep, horses, goats, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, chinchillas, snakes, skinks, frogs and others. We love doing this because we love our animals and want them to enjoy full, happy lives with loving families! BFP tells the public that it has to negotiate with research groups to release animals for rehoming because we are "ashamed of what (we) do" and don't want to expose ourselves to public scrutiny. It implies that we don't care about our animals and would rather euthanize them than release them to good homes. BFP has only existed for 4 years. We've been releasing research animals to the public for decades. Why are we the villains here, and how did these radical storytellers become public heroes?!

The answer is simple. People don't know us. They don't hear from us. They don't see us. They don't meet us. We aren't real. We've become evil science fiction characters in the fantasies of fanatics obsessed with ruling the world. We energize their deception with our silence and invisibility. And we will live in their world very soon if we continue to hide from the public.

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