

November 1, 2014

Dear Dr. Wilson:

You may recognize my name from *The Walking Dead*, where I played Shane Walsh, the feisty alpha male who fought to save the world from zombies. However, what I am feistier about is fighting for the well-being and treatment of animals, especially dogs. As a pit bull rescuer and owner of two (Boss and Venice), I am deeply saddened to learn that Wayne State University is performing cruel, unnecessary heart failure experiments on dogs—experiments which have produced no benefit to human health throughout their two-decade history.

As you know, Wayne State researchers subject hundreds of dogs, dogs that deserve as much love as my own, to painful surgeries and experiments in an attempt to study heart failure in humans. But this is a waste of money and lives. There are better ways to gain knowledge about cardiac health and heart failure prevention.

Numerous studies of heart failure patients have provided many important findings, often contrary to the animal research findings at Wayne State. Epidemiological studies such as the Framingham Study and the Methodist Study have allowed researchers to identify the causes of heart failure, and human clinical trials provide the results of approaches to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart failure.

Unnaturally inducing heart failure in dogs, then puncturing their hearts, inserting probes, and forcing them to run on treadmills tells us nothing useful about human heart disease, our country's number one killer.

Human-relevant basic science and clinical research, epidemiological studies, and clinical trials offer real answers about causes and treatments for heart failure. I respectfully urge you to end these dog experiments once and for all, for the animals' sake and for the sake of my fellow animal lovers.

I have attached photos of my rescued pit bulls as a reminder that dogs serve us all better as companions and family members, rather than as experiments.

Sincerely,



Jon Bernthal,
Actor & Animal Welfare Advocate