

Motoki Ozaki  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Kao Corporation**  
14-10 Nihonbashi Kayabacho  
1-chome, Chuo-ku  
Tokyo 103 8210  
JAPAN

14<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Dear Mr Ozaki

**Re: Patent application EP 1 982 587 A1 – Animal model for pigment spots**

Naturewatch is shocked to learn that Kao Corporation is still investing in new methods of testing on animals. Given the progress being made in Europe, Japan and elsewhere in the world to end the deplorable practice of testing cosmetics and cosmetic ingredients on animals, we are deeply concerned to hear that a new animal model is under consideration.

As recently as April 2008, patents outlining a new animal model were filed in Europe, and the United States. This new animal testing method requires the grafting of human skin onto an animal, which is then subjected to research into pigment spots or used in the evaluation of skin lightening ingredients.

This sickening misuse of animals, is surely a retrograde step, not only from an animal welfare perspective, but also in the light of European legislation that will totally ban animal testing of cosmetic ingredients from 2013, and enforce a marketing ban on the import of products into the EU, that contain cosmetic ingredients that have been tested on animals.

As a company which was commended in 2003 by the Japanese Society of Alternatives to Animal Experiments, we are deeply saddened and quite honestly appalled that Kao Corporation continue to use animals in research, merely to evaluate ingredients destined for skin lightening creams and "cosmetically troubling" pigment spots.

We urge you to reconsider and withdraw these patents, on the grounds that new animal testing methods for cosmetic purposes are totally unethical.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Lewis  
Campaign Manager  
Naturewatch