



July 14, 2011

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Legislative and
Public Affairs

Freedom of
Information

4700 River Road
Unit 50
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

Sue Mi Ko

Dear Ms. Ko:

This is in response to your June 15, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for all public information pertaining to Texas Heart Institute's (THI) animal testing practices. On June 27, 2011, you specifically requested information regarding heart transplant efforts in which the calves' hearts were taken out and replaced with artificial pumps. Your request was received on July 15, 2011, and assigned FOIA 11-580.

On June 23, 2011, you were provided links to our web site where you can obtain publicly available information about THI. We also conducted a search for the information requested on June 27th.

Agency employees conducted a search and found no responsive records. Also, our office was informed that specific information regarding THI animal testing practices must be obtained from THI.

Although this does not constitute a denial because no records were found or withheld, you may appeal this determination within 45 calendar days from the date of this letter. An appeal must be submitted in writing to: Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Ag Box 3401, Washington, DC 20250-3401. Please refer to **FOIA 11-580**, in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

If you have any questions, please contact the FOIA Staff at (301) 734-8296.

Sincerely,

Tonya G. Woods

Tonya G. Woods
Director
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act