

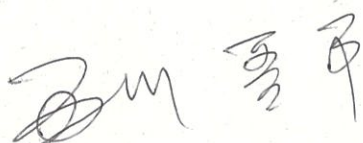
Dear Dr. Fang-Fang Ji, Director, Editorial Office,

I declare following statement is true.

**Institutional animal care and use committee statement:**

The animal experiments were approved by the institutional animal experiment ethics committee of Yamaguchi University (Approval No. 245).

Sincerely yours,



**Shimpei NISHIKAWA**, B.Vet.Med, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Small Animal Clinical Science,

Joint Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,

Yamaguchi University

753-8515,

1677-1, Yoshida, Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Pref., JAPAN

tel&fax : +81-83-933-5878

tel : +81-83-933-5931

email : [sn2007@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp](mailto:sn2007@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp)