

The Beagle Freedom Project (BFP) has been pulling the wool over the public's eyes with this media stunt for a few years now and their real agenda has nothing to do with the well-being of animals or people.

As Chair of the Board of Directors of Americans for Medical Progress, as well as an animal lover and someone who directs an animal care program for a major research center, I would like to tell you the real story.

These dogs are NOT 'rescued' from research facilities. They're voluntarily released by the lab animal caregivers who love and cherish them. Research institutions have been rehoming dogs for years, without 'help' from the Beagle Freedom Project.

Readers should be aware that BFP is led by animal rights extremists, including one convicted of domestic terrorism. BFP members misrepresent themselves to the research institutions they target and then lie to the public about the condition and treatment of these dogs. Why? To demonize the quest for cures that you and I still demand.

A review of the photos and video BFP itself offers of recently released dogs reveals the truth behind BFP's lies. The dogs' body condition and coats are gorgeous because they receive top notch nutrition and veterinary care while they are with us. They're friendly because they have enjoyed socialization and playtime with other dogs and with our caretakers who adore them.

Tell me something: Why would people who allegedly care so little about these dogs, as BFP claims, offer them for adoption? It's not a trivial process. Records of animal health and release have to be generated, and adopters have to be located and screened. If these institutions really had something to hide, why wouldn't they just euthanize all of these dogs, rather than risk 'exposure' by offering them to the public, as Shannon Keith suggests?

Our dogs are offered for adoption because we love them and are grateful for their contributions to human and animal well-being. We want these heroes to live long, healthy, fun lives with loving adopters who have the patience and information needed to help them adjust to their new families. BFP promotes lies, not education, so adopters often reach out to our community for help. Ask Beagle Freedom Project this: how many Beagles released to BFP end up in shelters, rather than loving homes, because BFP cares more about its agenda than our precious heroes?

We all love these dogs and we all wish that they weren't still necessary for the development of treatments and cures for conditions like cancer, Hepatitis C and Ebola. For now, they are still needed. Until we find a better way – and we are working on it – this research will continue to improve the lives of our friends, families and pets. The public is grossly misinformed about the care of animals in biomedical research and thus, unwittingly, people are supporting agendas that will harm them and their loved ones. The leaders of the Beagle Freedom Project have acknowledged that their true agenda is to end animal-based research now. Please check the facts before supporting organizations like the Beagle Freedom Project.