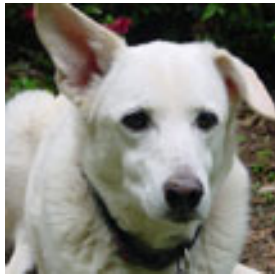


ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



Pet Safety & Protection Act to Amend Animal Welfare Act

The Pet Safety and Protection Act, which would amend the Animal Welfare Act to essentially prevent research facilities from purchasing dogs and cats from Class B dealers, was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives in April by Representatives Phil English (R-PA), Mike Doyle (D-PA), and a bipartisan list of 32 cosponsors. Licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to sell animals to research facilities, Class B dealers purchase or acquire animals from random sources, such as auctions, trade days, flea markets, or "bunchers" - individuals who round up dogs and cats from questionable sources, sometimes including stolen pets and animals advertised in "free to a good home" ads in newspapers or on the Internet. This permissive system of acquiring animals makes it difficult for the USDA to enforce regulations regarding the true source of each animal. The new bill, H.R. 4559, would require research facilities to purchase dogs and cats only from dealers who have bred and raised the animals themselves, or from registered 'pounds' or public shelters where this practice has not yet been banned. A companion bill, S. 451, is pending in the Senate.

The House bill follows on the heels of an HBO television documentary on a Class B dealer in Arkansas who was fined and shut down for trafficking in stolen pets, keeping animals in substandard conditions, and subjecting them to inhumane practices. The recent Arkansas case was reminiscent of a similar case profiled in Life magazine in 1966, which helped spur passage of the Animal Welfare Act. "Forty years of exposés on Class B dealers are enough; this unsavory

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Noteworthy...

The National Institutes of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare has published an 88-page report on enrichment for nonhuman primates kept in captivity. The report addresses enrichment for chimpanzees, baboons,

pipeline to the animal research laboratory should be outlawed once and for all," noted Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, which supports the Pet Safety and Protection Act.

Sources: [The HSUS](#)



Great Ape Proposals

The Swiss Ethics Committee on Non-human Biotechnology (ECNH) and the Swiss Committee on Animal Experiments (SCAE) recently recommended a total ban on

experiments involving great apes (gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, and orangutans, as well as humans), cautioned that tests on other primates should be conducted "only if justified by an adequate evaluation of interests," and advised "extreme caution" when approving experiments on primates that involve the animals' cognitive faculties. The ECNH advises Swiss government authorities on legislation and enforcement from an ethical standpoint; the SCAE advises the Swiss Federal Veterinary Office on animal experimentation-related matters.

Similarly the Spanish government is considering a resolution granting chimpanzees and other great apes special protection against "slavery, torture, death, and extinction," which would preclude use in biomedical experimentation. Neither Switzerland nor Spain currently uses apes in biomedical research, but a legislative ban would codify that situation and send a strong message against any resumption of their use.

The United States is the only country that currently uses apes (specifically chimpanzees) on a large scale and one of the few countries that still use any great apes in research. The Humane Society of the United States is working to end the use of chimpanzees in biomedical research and testing in the U.S.

Sources: [SCAE Report](#) ; [NZZ Online](#)

capuchins, marmosets, tamarins and squirrel monkeys. It can be downloaded as a whole or as a series of booklets [here](#).

Three scientific papers published recently in ATLA (Alternatives to Laboratory Animals) criticize the use of animals as models of humans in carcinogenicity testing and discuss potential alternative approaches. The papers claim that an "over-reliance" on animal data in carcinogenicity testing has led to incorrect classification of dangerous environmental contaminants assessed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The papers may be downloaded [here](#), under the topic 'animal experimentation.'



Side Effects Not Predicted by Animal Tests



In March 2006, all six healthy volunteers injected with an experimental drug were rushed to the intensive care unit of a London hospital with severe reactions that were not predicted by earlier testing on animals, sparking conflicting claims about the value of animal testing. The young men were participating in a clinical trial of TGN1412, a drug developed to treat rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, and leukemia. After being injected with the drug, the men experienced swelling, pain, organ failure, and loss of consciousness. TeGenero, the company that developed the drug and completed the pre-clinical trials on animals, reported only minor gland swelling in the two of the 26 monkeys tested.

A UK government investigation noted that the drug company responsible for the human testing made administrative and documentation errors, but that these did not lead to the adverse reactions. The report concluded that the reactions stemmed from “unpredicted biological action of the drug in humans.” The species differences in reaction to the drug could have been related to the differing immune systems of humans versus those of monkeys, rabbits, mice, and rats - all used to test the drug.

Some proponents of animal testing tried to put the best face on the tragedy, concluding that the drug trial was the exception that proves the rule (of the value of animal testing). Stuart Derbyshire, a scientist who favors animal testing, claimed that “we should demand increased animal testing when moving novel drug agents towards human trials.” Opponents of animal testing highlighted the inability of the animal testing to predict the adverse outcome in people and pointed to similar recent examples, including the drug Vioxx.

Source: MHRA.gov; [NewsScientist](#); [Spiked-online](#); [BUAV](#)



UK Animal Research Defenders on the Offensive

In the United Kingdom, defenders of animal research are celebrating recent successes and at least temporarily adopting a more pro-active stance. Three persons who led a campaign against a U.K. farm that bred guinea pigs for research were recently sentenced to 12 years in jail after pleading guilty to charges of conspiracy to blackmail the farm owners. The campaign culminated in the stealing the body of an elderly woman, a close relative of the farm owners, from her grave. Citing the grave-robbing incident and “the campaign of intimidation,” Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that he had signed an on-line public petition in support of animal testing. He also cited a recently launched letter-writing campaign against GlaxoSmithKline shareholders as another example of why he felt it necessary to “support and protect individuals and companies” involved in medical research using animals.

In response to animal rights campaigns, including protests at Oxford University, a grass-roots group entitled Pro-Test has formed in support of “continued animal testing and ... scientific research.” In a similar counter-response, a member of Parliament has suggested labeling medicine as ‘tested on animals’ to clarify the benefits of animal testing. (Both pharmaceutical companies and the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection are against the labeling proposal, though for different reasons.) And finally, in a move that would have been unthinkable in the political climate that prevailed until recently, Colin Blakemore, the head of the Medical Research Council and perhaps the most high profile UK defender of animal research, floated the idea of repealing the ban on experimentation on great apes, citing the possibility of experimenting on chimpanzees or other great ape in the face of a new human epidemic.

Source: Telegraph.co.uk; [Marketwatch](#); [BBC News](#)



Harmonization of Care and Use Guidelines

The International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) recently published guidance on humane endpoints for animal-based research and euthanasia of laboratory animals, in an effort to harmonize standards for the care and use of laboratory animals on a global scale. ICLAS created a working group to specifically address harmonization. This group adopts principles related to the issue under examination and, additionally, identifies and recommends existing guidelines.

“The formal recommendation of specific guidelines by a group of international representatives is crucial to harmonization of standards internationally, which ultimately benefits animal welfare,” says Kathleen Conlee of The Humane Society of the United States, who serves as a member of the ICLAS Working Group on Harmonization. “Such efforts are also particularly important for countries that are beginning to use animals in biomedical research but have no set standards in place.” The guidance on humane endpoints is intended to facilitate the design and conduct of experiments that limit animal pain and distress by terminating procedures at the earliest possible time points. The guidance on euthanasia is intended to ensure that the killing of research animals is as pain- and distress-free as possible.

ICLAS is an international scientific organization dedicated to advancing human and animal health by promoting the humane care and use of animals in research worldwide.

Sources: [LASA/APC Report](#); [BBC News](#)

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