

ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



Transfer to Primarily Primates Takes its Toll on OSU Primates

Following the recent relocation of nine chimpanzees and three capuchin monkeys from Ohio State University (OSU) to Primarily Primates, an animal sanctuary near San Antonio, Texas, two chimpanzees have died and one capuchin escaped. OSU had transferred the animals after claiming that it no longer had adequate funding to enable Dr. Sally Boysen to continue conducting cognitive studies on them.

Two of the three incidents occurred immediately after the animals' arrival at Primarily Primates in late February, 2006. Kermit, a chimpanzee, died after being anesthetized for transfer to new housing quarters from the transport truck. And Jane, one of three capuchin monkeys who had lived together for many years, escaped immediately after release into her new enclosure. Less than two months later, Bobby, a chimpanzee, was found dead in his enclosure. Kermit's necropsy indicated heart attack as the cause of death but the report failed to address the role that tranquilizers (administered to facilitate the transfer from the truck to the enclosure) may have played. A necropsy report on Bobby should be available in early May. These two chimpanzees (one 35 years old and the other 19) died well before the typical lifespan of a captive chimpanzee, 50 to 60 years.

Controversy has surrounded the transfer of these animals since its inception. Critics have questioned why OSU did not send the animals to other, some say better, sanctuaries. Critics also charge that more care should have been taken with the primates throughout

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Noteworthy...

The Body Shop International, a personal care product company known for its longstanding policy against animal testing, has been acquired by L'Oreal, a cosmetic

the transfer and transition periods. The importation of the animals into Texas is being challenged on the basis of exotic and dangerous animal laws.

Sources: [The Beacon Journal-Associated Press](#) ; [Colombus Dispatch](#); [The HSUS](#)



EU Validates Five New Tests

The Scientific Advisory Committee for the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM), which validates

alternatives to animal testing, has approved six new non-animal testing methods that are expected to at least partially replace animal-based tests used identify bacterial contaminants in drugs and safe doses of chemotherapy agents.

Five of the new tests involve testing injectible drugs for traces of bacterial contaminants that can produce harmful side effects, including fever. Currently, such testing typically involves rabbits, who can experience fever, pain, and shock. In the European Union alone, 200,000 rabbits are used in such "pyrogen" testing. The newly approved tests, which use human immune cells grown in the laboratory, are expected to more accurately reflect how the human body will detect and respond to the bacteria.

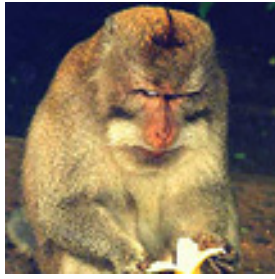
The other newly approved alternative test was designed to assist in the dosing of the highly toxic drugs used in chemotherapy. Rather than testing these drugs on animals, chemotherapy drugs will be assessed using bone marrow culture from mice, or cord blood cells from humans. The new testing is expected to increase safety for the patients using these drugs, as well as prevent possible overdose in the first round of patients administered a new drug, a risk that is difficult to identify in preclinical (animal-based) testing.

Sources: [EU Press Release](#) ; [ECVAM Statement](#); [ECVAM](#)

company that does not have a policy against animal testing. L'Oreal has stated that it will continue to operate The Body Shop as a separate entity and plans to uphold The Body Shop's current testing policy. A statement from The Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics (CCIC) on the acquisition can be found [here](#).

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Laboratory Welfare (OLAW) has created a disaster resource web site for research facilities with animal care and use programs. The site includes guidebook and guideline excerpts, as well as a "Lessons Learned from Hurricanes Katrina & Rita" and other disaster resources. The [web site](#) is accessible to the public.

After passing the New York State Assembly, a bill to encourage cruelty-free products is now being considered by the NY Senate. The bill would prohibit manufacturers and contract facilities from conducting tests on animals when an approved alternative exists. More information about the bill is available from [HSUS](#).



Covance Pays Fine

Following an exposé by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and a nine month probe by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Covance Inc. has agreed to pay an \$8,720 fine for 16 violations of the Animal Welfare Act. The settlement means that the case will not go to trial.

USDA's investigation of the contract testing facility located in Vienna, Virginia was prompted by a formal complaint, including video footage, filed by PETA in May of 2005. The video was taken by an undercover investigators who worked in Covance's primate toxicology department from April 2004 to May 2005. The ensuing exposé included allegations of punching, choking and taunting of injured monkeys, as well as failing to provide veterinary care to severely wounded monkeys.

"None of the issues cited by the USDA were pervasive or endemic," said a Covance spokesperson. "While we don't agree with all of those citations, the company has agreed to (the fine) and we've already taken corrected action."

Covance's plans to build another testing facility in Chandler, AZ has been publicly opposed by several animal protection groups, as well as by former Beatle, Paul McCartney.

Source: [The Arizona Republic](#); [Press of Atlantic City-Associated Press](#)



UK Conducts Study on Retrospective Reporting of the Severity of Animal Procedures

At the request of the United Kingdom government, the British Laboratory Animal Science Association (LASA) and the Animal Procedures Committee (APC) completed a pilot study on the feasibility of researchers reporting actual levels of suffering experienced by animals used in scientific procedures. Currently scientists are required to report the severity of adverse effects that are expected to occur, a priori, choosing among the categories of mild, moderate, substantial or unclassified (animal is under anesthetic). In the pilot study, a post-hoc reporting scheme was tried in three universities, three companies, and three public-sector laboratories. "We looked at whether [actual severity] data was readily available, if it could be collected easily, put together and reported," said the chair of the working group coordinating the study.

The working group found that a majority of facilities involved in the pilot study already kept a record of the severity of suffering experienced by their animal subjects. The working group then looked at ways to organize and report this information and proposed a "two-grid" system reporting both severity and duration of the experimental process. LASA and APC will proceed with a more extensive study. The study extension proposes to:

“condider simplification of the proposed reporting scheme; assess appropriateness across a wider range of establishments; evaluate the consistency of response to the scoring system; identify a process for developing a glossary of severity codes for a range of protocols and outcomes; conduct a detailed impact assessment; and assess the value of the scheme in generating data that can assist public understanding of the severity of effects caused to animals used in regulated scientific procedures.”

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



Animal Protection Groups Protest Harmful Experimentation on Animals

Animal protectionists are protesting the pending move of 34 monkeys from Colorado University (CU) to Wake Forest University. The macaque monkeys, dubbed the 'CU34,' have been used in maternal deprivation and alcohol experiments that protesters have characterized as “archaic and unnecessary.” Similar studies will continue after the animals are transferred to Wake Forest, which is located in North Carolina. Protestors, led by the Center for Research Responsibility, a project of In Defense of Animals, are demanding that research on the monkeys stop and the animals instead be moved to a sanctuary that has already agreed to take the monkeys.

A similar challenge to primate experimentation has taken place at the University of Connecticut (UConn), where the University of Connecticut Animal Rights Collective has protested experiments on rhesus macaques involving brain lesions and implantation of equipment to measure eye movements. Since last year, campaigners had wanted UConn to take advantage of a break in the experiments by retiring the four monkeys in question. However, UConn has refused, claiming that the experiments adhere to high standards. As of April 2006, one of the monkeys had been euthanized and another died as a result of the research.

The Humane Society of the United States has joined with other animal protection organizations in calling upon UConn to retire the two remaining monkeys to an appropriate sanctuary where they can live out the rest of their lives free from pain and distress caused by research.

Sources: [Center for Research Accountability](#); [PETA](#)

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