

# ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**



## Chimpanzees on the Move

Ten chimpanzees were recently relocated from the former Coulston Foundation research facility in New Mexico to sanctuary in Florida, four

years after the closing of the research facility and the takeover of its chimpanzees' care by a rescue organization. This is the first group of the 266 Coulstons chimps to move to a sanctuary. Save the Chimps purchased the Coulston facility in 2002 after it lost government funding in the aftermath of several sets of Animal Welfare Act violations. The organization's sanctuary, dubbed Islands in the Sun, features a natural environment located on three islands where the chimps can socialize, much as they would in the wild.

Also moving are nine chimpanzees from Ohio State University who are being relocated to Primarily Primates, a Texas sanctuary. These animals were a part of a cognitive studies program that has contributed to the understanding of chimpanzee intelligence. The program was directed by Dr. Sally Boysen, who has protested both the closing of program and the choice of sanctuary facility. OSU officials have stated that "in recent years, research funding for primate research across the country has been shrinking and that university-based primate colonies are becoming harder to support."

A national chimpanzee sanctuary system was established as a result of passage of the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection (CHIMP) Act in 2000. Chimp Haven, the organization that oversees this system, recently released a group of six chimpanzees into a four-acre, wooded habitat at

## February 2006

### In this issue...

[Chimpanzees on the Move ...](#)

[Baffling Opposition to Animal Welfare...](#)

[EU Takes Action on Animal Welfare...](#)

[Department of Homeland Security Plans...](#)

[Discovery Allows Synthetic Production...](#)

Get the [PDF version](#) of this eNewsletter.

### Noteworthy...

The Alternatives Research and Development Foundation is soliciting research proposals. Up to \$40,000 in funding is available to researchers who uphold ARDF's mission to promote the development, validation and adoption of non-animal methods in biomedical research,

their Caddo Parish, Louisiana home. These chimpanzees, formerly used in biomedical research, had been living in a quarter-acre enclosure where they could adjust to new surroundings.

**Source: The Ledger, February 2006; [Save The Chimps](#); [Newswise](#) ; [Shreveport Times](#)**



## Baffling Opposition to Animal Welfare Sparks Debate

The Scientist, a weekly e-magazine for life scientists, recently published two opinion pieces by academic researchers critical of what are widely regarded as fundamental elements of the middle ground in the animal research controversy: the 3 Rs approach and the Animal Welfare Act. In Time to Abandon the 3Rs, British psychologist Stuart Derbyshire asserts "scientists persist in denigrating their own behavior by advocating the three Rs: refinement, reduction, and replacement" of animal use. He claims that the use of the 3Rs is "disastrous" and draws too much attention to the importance of animal welfare. In How Regulation Hamstrings Animal Research, an American physiologist Goran Hellekant takes aim at the Animal Welfare Act, the primary U.S. law governing animal research. He claims that the Act is filled with "unrealistic rules and demands," "creates unrealistic conditions," and in its application, often "kills rather than saves animals."

The irony of "Time to Abandon the 3 Rs" is that, in the opinion of many advocates of the 3 Rs, many scientists are hardly aware of the 3 Rs approach, much less incorporate it actively into their research programs. Researchers who fully embrace Derbyshire's anti-3Rs perspective would potentially be flouting the law, their own institution's policies, and the public's concern for animals. His opinion piece generated a flurry of emails on listservs and elsewhere from commentators within the scientific community who took issue with his hard-line, unapologetic stance.

Much of Hellekant's criticism, whatever its merit, is better directed at his home institution (the University of

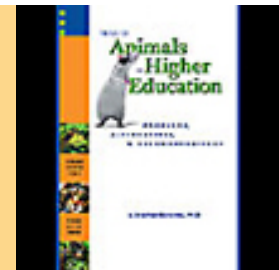
product testing and education. The application deadline is April 30, 2006. Specific guidelines are available at <http://www.ardf-online.org/>

The American Physiological Society has announced the publication of Resource Book for the Design of Animal Exercise Protocols. Intended as a reference for researchers and anyone involved in research oversight, the resource book compiles suggestions about how to design, review, and implement animalexercise models that comply with the Animal Welfare Act, as well as institutional policies and guidelines. The publication is available free from its sponsor, the National Institutes of Health Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (contact [OLAW@od.nih.gov](mailto:OLAW@od.nih.gov) to request a free copy). The book is also available as a [PDF](#).



Wisconsin, Madison) rather than the Animal Welfare Act per se. His theme of the Act hampering potentially life-saving research has been championed by defenders of animal research since the Act's passage in 1966. Although potshots are still taken at specific provisions of the Act, its critics tend to mute their rhetoric once successive waves of the Act's amendment take hold and animal research continues more or less unabated. Indeed, defenders of animal research often grudgingly acknowledge the AWA's importance to animal welfare, good science, and public's acceptance of animal research.

**Source:** [The Scientist](#)



## EU Takes Action On Animal Welfare



The application of the 3Rs in animal testing has been designated a high priority in the European Commission's Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals. The recently announced action plan is a component of the European Commission's five year plan to reform animal welfare. The increased application of the 3Rs (reduce, refine, replace) in animal testing is one of the action plan's five broad priorities for 2006-2010. The EU Commission explained that though protection of experimental animals is addressed briefly in the EU Directive 86/609/EEC, "updated scientific information and increasing public concern on this issue have highlighted the need for stronger action in this area." The Commission is currently preparing a revision of this Directive to further protect animals used in experimentation and to ensure the law specifies appropriate care and humane treatment.

Some action has already been taken in the 3Rs 'action area,' when in November 2005 a 3Rs Declaration was agreed upon by the Commission and industry. The Commission explains that this was "the starting point of a European partnership in which all stakeholders will seek concrete future actions to reduce animal testing and look for alternatives." Animal protection observers in Europe and elsewhere are eager to see such

plans and actions result in tangible reductions in the suffering and use of animals in testing.

Sources: [Nieuwsbank](#) ; [Europa](#)

---



## Department of Homeland Security Plans for High Security Biolab

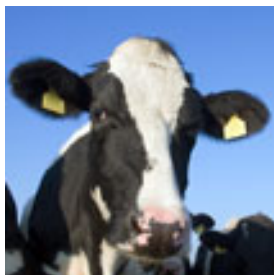
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced plans to replace the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, located off Long Island, NY, with a new high-security biolab. The biolab will be a modern facility intended for research on animal diseases that can infect humans, such as avian flu and anthrax, as well as ongoing work to combat animal diseases, such as hoof and mouth disease, currently researched at the Plum Island facility. The new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) will draw on researchers from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and Human Services, and DHS.

According to a DHS announcement "The proposed NBAF is envisioned to provide the nation with the first integrated agricultural, zoonotic disease, and public health research, development, testing, and evaluation facility with the capability to address threats from human pathogens, high-consequence zoonotic disease agents, and foreign animal diseases." It will be considered a Biolevel Safety 3 facility; currently the Plum Island facility is the only such facility in the United States. Congress has authorized \$23 million to fund construction of the facility.

The new facility planned for Plum Island is the latest example in which concerns over homeland security and bioterrorism are leading not only to more research on animals, but research that has high potential to cause animal pain and distress.

Source: [Federal Register, Volume 71](#) ; [The Scientist](#)

---



## Discovery Allows Synthetic Production of Heparin

Researchers at the University of North Carolina have discovered a way to synthetically produce Heparin, a drug commonly used to stop or prevent blood clotting during medical procedures and treatments, such as kidney dialysis, heart bypass surgery, and knee and hip replacements. The synthetic version reportedly produces the same results as the current version, which is derived from processed animal organs. The new production process can be applied to other heparin-based products as well, such as those that regulate cell growth and possibly applications in wound healing or cancer treatment. Heparin alone accounts for \$3 million dollars in sales per year, world-wide.

The Humane Society of the United States welcomes the replacement of animals and their

tissues in the production of medical products.

**Source: Rensselaer Press Release**

©2005 The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Animal Research News & Analysis is produced by the Animal Research Issues section of The Humane Society of the United States. It is a free, electronic newsletter that provides up-to-date news stories and interpretive analyses on the use of animals in research, testing, and education. To subscribe, or for more information, please visit our [website](#). To unsubscribe, please send an [e-mail](#) including the words, "Unsubscribe: Animal Research News" in the subject line and your first and last name in the body of the message.