

# ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**



## Outsourcing Primate Research

With the high cost of purchasing and keeping monkeys in developed countries, researchers are beginning to turn to fledgling primate centers in China and other developing countries, where the cost is significantly cheaper. Monkeys can be purchased in China for one fifth to one tenth of the U.S. price, for example. Yet the worry is that research facilities in China will not meet international standards for animal health and welfare, which themselves are seen by animal protectionists as modest.

Researchers seeking to use monkeys in China for U.S. government funded research must first ensure that China's primate centers meet the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Some primate centers have negotiated with National Institutes of Health, which oversees compliance with the PHS policy, to sign a statement that says they will meet the standards.

In recent months, representatives of several pharmaceutical companies visited China in search of monkeys for research. While drug companies are not required to meet PHS standards (except when they receive PHS funding), they would be best served by pursuing high standards of care. An important step in this direction would be for facilities to obtain accreditation by the independent Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Care International (AAALAC). John Reid of AstraZeneca, a recent visitor to Chinese primate centers, explained that it "will take a while before Chinese facilities and the situation in China improve to a point where people

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### Noteworthy...

ICCVAM is hosting a peer review meeting to discuss in vitro acute systemic toxicity test methods proposed as adjuncts to in vivo acute oral toxicity tests to reduce and refine animal use. The review will be held May 23, 2006 at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD. For more information see [ICCVAM](#). For registration information, [click here](#).

feel comfortable with it. Overall none of them currently meet the international standards and that's going to be a big issue in getting them up to quality." Reid also noted that global concern over animal welfare, if not handled properly, is a big enough force to negatively impact pharmaceutical sales.

**Source: Nature Medicine, Vol 12, No. 3, March 2006; [San Francisco Business Times](#)**



## USDA Revises Policies on Training and Registration

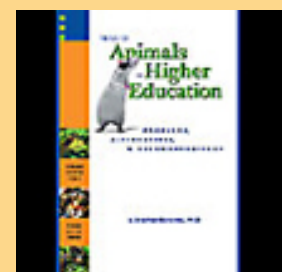
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has revised two Animal Welfare Act (AWA) policies relating to Institutional Animal Care

and Use Committees (IACUC) and licensing and registration of facilities. Policy #15 has been revised to specify the qualifications of IACUC members. Whereas IACUC members previously were required to have 'access' to training, the policy now says that research facilities are required to ensure that members are provided training and instruction to ensure that they are qualified to assess the facilities animal programs and procedures, as well as the facility itself.

Policy #10 has been revised to state that any facility conducting genetic engineering which results in a live (whole) animal species should be regulated as a research facility, provided that the species is covered under the AWA. Such facilities would have to be registered with USDA and be under IACUC oversight. However, the USDA adds that the act of cloning does not require a facility to be licensed or registered with the USDA. A facility that clones animals for AWA-regulated purposes will be considered to be a breeder and must be licensed by the USDA as a dealer. The USDA will review cloning companies on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not they require licensure or registration.

Licensed exhibitors who collect information from their animals to improve nutrition, care, breeding, or management of their animals are exempt from these registration requirements as long as the exhibitors do not cause pain or distress to the animals during

The New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS) will be hosting a program entitled "In Their Own Words, Stories of Chimpanzees Rescued from Research," on April 20th in Atlanta, GA. The event will launch NEAVS' campaign, Project R&R: Release and Restitution for Chimpanzees in U.S. Laboratories and commemorate World Week for Animals in Laboratories '06. For more information see <http://www.releasechimps.org>



collection, and the method of collection is performed at the same time as routine procedures and is not invasive.

**Source:** [USDA](#); [Policy #10](#); [Policy#15](#)



## Genetic Modification Leads to Rise in Research Mice

The number of mice housed in research laboratories is increasing, owing in part to the expanding practice of using genetically modified animals—primarily mice—in experiments. Since the completion of the human genome project in 2001 and the subsequent draft sequence of the mouse genome (2002), many scientists have decided that the mouse is a good “model” for human research because of similarities between the mouse and human genomes. Genetically modified (GM) mice are used in drug development, testing therapies, and the study of human illnesses, among other areas.

Mice are the most commonly used research animals in the U.S. and abroad, with tens of millions used globally each year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture does not track the number of mice used annually in US laboratories, owing to their exclusion from the Animal Welfare Act. However one indication of the growth in mouse-based research is the experience at Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD), where the research mouse population went from 42,000 in 1992 to 100,000 today.

Of course, not all mice housed in research labs wind up being used in research; some are breeders and some are simply wasted. Great Britain is one of the only countries that provides statistics that allow one to distinguish trends in mouse use versus breeding for GM and non-GM mice. From 2003 to 2004, the use of GM mice in British research increased 12% while the use of non-GM mice actually decreased slightly. During the same period, the breeding of GM increased 21% while the breeding of non-GM mice dropped nearly 13%. GM mice who are breeders or are simply wastage may nevertheless have poor welfare owing to the genetic manipulations they experience, the consequences of these modifications, or from commonly used euthanasia practices, such as carbon dioxide, that cause pain and/or distress.

**Sources:** [Home Office-Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals: Great Britain 2003 & 2004](#) ; [USA Today](#); [Chicago Tribune](#), February 24, 2006



## Animal Welfare Hot Topic at AAVMC Symposium

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) held a symposium entitled "The Use of Animals in Veterinary Medical Teaching: Refinement, Reduction, Replacement" on March 9-10, in Washington, D.C. The symposium provided a rare opportunity for veterinary school faculty, animal protectionists, regulators, and others to come together to discuss common goals for animal welfare and focus on the use of animals in veterinary education.

The symposium talks were on a wide variety of subjects including the benefits, drawbacks and ethics of using animals as teaching tools; regulatory issues involved in using animals for education; some alternatives currently in use; and communication between the animal protection community and veterinary schools. There were also posters and presentations that highlighted various alternatives to traditional animal use, such as cadaver surgeries, shelter partnerships, virtual reality models, mannequins, and alternative loan programs. In addition, on display were models designed to appropriately develop the basic skills of veterinary students for procedures such as suturing, rectal palpation, and blood draw, prior to the use of live animals. For the full symposium agenda as well as poster and model abstracts, click [here](#).

HSUS staff presented a poster on the use of Educational Memorial Programs (EMPs) as a way of procuring ethically sourced cadavers for veterinary training. To read more about EMPs, visit [www.educationalmemorial.org](http://www.educationalmemorial.org).

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

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## SHAC Trial Convicts Six



The animal rights group Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), and six of its members, were convicted of using their web site to incite threats, harassment, and vandalism against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), a company that conducts animal testing of drugs and consumer products for manufacturers.

Though the SHAC members themselves were not charged with directly making threats or vandalizing property, the organization's web site reportedly listed the phone numbers and other personal information of the lab's employees, and those who do business with HLS, as part of its campaign against the company. Many of the listed employees were targets of vandalism and threats against them or their families, according to testimony. The prosecution stated that they were unaware of who actually sent the threatening emails

and faxes or made threatening phone calls.

The trial was the first related prosecution under the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, enacted in 1992. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles McKenna, "The United States is gratified by the jury's deliberations and verdict in this case on behalf of the people who've been victimized." SHAC had asserted that the content of its web site was protected as a matter of free speech.

**Source: [MSNBC](#); [Press of Atlantic City](#); [New York Times](#); [CNN.com/2006/LAW/03/02/](#)**

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