

ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



Thousands of Research Animals Die as a Result of Hurricane Katrina

Thousands of animals at research facilities in Louisiana died in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which struck on August 29th. Facilities reporting considerable losses include Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Health Sciences and Tulane Medical School, both in the New Orleans area. According to LSU spokespersons, all of the Health Sciences Center's 8,000 research animals perished, including mice, rabbits, dogs, and primates. While some animals drowned, others died from lack of food and water, and the rest were euthanized because they could not be relocated. At Tulane, volunteers at the main campus found some animals still alive after the hurricane. They removed 175 boxes of transgenic mice to the Tulane Primate Center and euthanized the rest. Some animals at Tulane's Medical Center campus were also found still alive; they were fed and watered. Volunteers were to return the next day and remove more animals, and euthanize the rest.

Any institutions that had Public Health Service "assurances" at the time of the hurricane will have to report animal deaths to the National Institutes of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW). These reports will provide a more complete picture of the toll on research animals of the flooding, power losses, hot weather, and abandonment by facility personnel. According to Dr. Martin Stephens, HSUS vice president for animal research issues, "In light of the loss of animal life with Hurricane Katrina, research facilities should review their disaster plans and ensure that workable plans are in place to preclude disaster-related animal suffering and death."

September 2005

In this issue...

[Thousands of Research Animals Die...](#)

[Chimpanzee Genome Sequencing...](#)

[U.S. Animal Use Statistics, 2004...](#)

[Culture Wars at a Guinea Pig Farm...](#)

[Class "B" Animal Dealers...](#)

Noteworthy...

The International Society for Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology will host a workshop on "Progress and Barriers to Incorporating Alternative Toxicological Methods in the U.S.", to be held November 17 and 18, 2005, in Baltimore, MD. For more information on the workshop and to register, visit <http://www.isrtp.org>.

InterNICHE has announced its 2005 Humane Education

Sources: [The Boston Globe, Sept. 10](#); [The Chronicle of Higher Education, Sept. 7](#); [The Mercury News, Sept. 13](#).

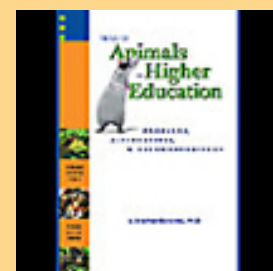


Chimpanzee Genome Sequencing Raises Issues about Chimp Research

The recent sequencing of the chimpanzee's genome, announced in *Nature*, underscores the similarity between these animals and humans. Pan troglodytes and Homo sapiens have 98% of their DNA in common, and share almost all of our genes. The two species now also share the same taxonomic family, Hominidae. Some scientists see these similarities as reasons to step up research on chimpanzees for the benefit of humans. However, two scientists from the University of California, San Diego, urged caution. Writing in the same issue of *Nature*, they argued that, "The study of great apes should follow ethical principles generally similar to those for current studies on human subjects who cannot give informed consent." They add, "The time has come to establish broadly accepted guidelines for systematic, humane and ethical studies of captive great ape populations that also contribute to the well-being of the apes themselves."

Ironically, only days before the calls for more biomedical research on chimpanzees in light of the genome sequencing, animal protectionists from around the world put forward a resolution calling upon all relevant stakeholders to develop a plan to end the use of non-human primates (including chimpanzees) in biomedical research and testing. The resolution was announced at the 5th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, where it was supported by Jane Goodall and other scientists in attendance (see ARNA, August 2005). The United States is one of the few countries that still use chimpanzees in research. The Humane Society of the United States fully supports the resolution and has urged that the approximately 1,300 chimpanzees currently used in laboratories be retired to federally funded sanctuaries, such as Chimp Haven in Louisiana.

Awards to replace harmful animal use in biological science and medical and veterinary medical education. Proposals are invited from all countries; 20,000 Euros will be split among successful proposals. Inquiries should be directed to coordinator@interniche.org.



Humane Education Loan Program

Source: Nature, vol. 437, issue 7055; www.i-newswire.com

U.S. Animal Use Statistics for 2004



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the agency responsible for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), has released its 2004 Animal Welfare Report. The number of animals used in research, testing and education, from species covered under the AWA, was 1,101,958. This figure is down from a high of 2,369,439 in 1993. The AWA's provisions apply only to a limited set of species and exclude "purpose-bred" mice and rats, as well as all birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. These excluded species, especially the mice and rats, account for an increasingly high percentage of the total number of animals used in research, perhaps over 95%. Consequently, the total number of vertebrates used was at least 20 million animals.

Also reported were numbers of animals used in the official pain and distress categories. In 2004, 615,410 animals (56%) underwent procedures that caused no pain or distress ("Category C"); 399,800 (36%) underwent procedures that caused pain and/or distress and for which drugs were used for relief ("Category D"); and 86,748 (8%) underwent procedures that caused pain and/or distress for which no drugs were given for relief ("Category E"). The percentage of animals in Category E experiments has been consistent in the past several years (8-12% from 1996-2004). The USDA's pain and distress classification system has been widely criticized over the years. In July 2000, the USDA acknowledged some of the system's shortcomings and announced that the agency was considering a new system. However, the agency has failed to follow-up on its announcement.

Source: [USDA](http://www.usda.gov)

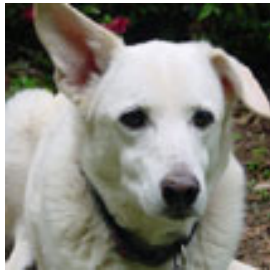
Culture Wars at a Guinea Pig Farm and Wall Street



A British facility that breeds guinea pigs for research will be closing its doors by year's end, following a six-year campaign by animal rights activists. The rural facility had been the target of protests, arson, and a break-in and theft of 600 guinea pigs. Other properties in the local village had been damaged and electricity supplies cut. Sixty activists were arrested since 2003. The August announcement of the closing, made anonymously, was accompanied by an appeal for the return of the body of the facility owner's mother-in-law, whose remains had been stolen from a graveyard last October. The British research community condemned the tactics used by the activists and claimed that medical research in Britain will be seriously hampered by the lack of guinea pigs. The day after the announcement, a declaration in support of using animals in medical research, signed by hundreds of scientists, was announced publicly.

In September, the long-running campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences, led by Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), reached Wall Street. The New York Stock Exchange had been set to festively announce the addition to its listings of Life Sciences Research (LSR), as the British-based HLS is known in the US. However, the stock exchange postponed the listing indefinitely. Animal rights activists in the U.S. had been alerted to LSR's pending listing, and email addresses and phone numbers of a long list of NYSE employees were published on a web site. The New York Stock Exchange's decision reportedly was based on the controversy over the HLS/LSR and concern for its own employees. Previous targets of the anti-HLS/LSR efforts have included vendors of the company, including food service and lawn service firms. Six activists will be tried next year in New Jersey, accused of conspiring to threaten and terrorize employees, clients and associates of HLS/LSR.

Source: [The Guardian, August 24](#); [The Independent, August 24](#) ; [Wall Street Journal, Sept. 14](#)



Legislative Amendment Would Curb "Class B" Animal Dealers

The U.S. Senate voted on September 20th to prohibit research facilities from using tax dollars for purchasing animals from "Class B" dealers.

The proposal was introduced by Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and made as an amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations bill. Approved by unanimous consent, the amendment awaits further action when the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations leaders meet to resolve differences between their respective bills. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) standards under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), Class B dealers obtain animals for research, typically dogs and cats, by purchasing and then reselling them. Class A dealers breed animals for research and can sell only those animals bred and raised on their premises.

Earlier this year, the USDA fined a Class B dealer in Arkansas \$262,700 and suspended his license for five years, for multiple counts of neglect and mistreatment of animals (see ARNA, May 2005). Historically, Class B dealer operations have been plagued by AWA violations and scandal, including trafficking in family pets, acquiring dogs from "free to good home" advertisements under false pretenses, and housing animals under inhumane conditions.

Source: [HSUS](#)

©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.