



The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis May 14, 2002

In this Issue...

- 1. Passage of Farm Bill Denies Protection to Birds, Mice, and Rats**
- 2. Primate Breeding Facility Indicted**
- 3. NIMH Handbook on Welfare Considerations in Behavioral Research with Animals Now Available**
- 4. InterNICHE Announces Humane Education Award**

1. Passage of Farm Bill Denies Protection to Birds, Mice, and Rats

Following approval by the House and Senate, President Bush has signed into law the controversial Farm Security Act, more commonly known as the "Farm Bill". Animal protectionists had followed this bill closely because Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) had added an amendment that would permanently deny birds, mice and rats legal protection under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The bill's passage means that birds, rats, and mice used in laboratory research will remain unprotected under the AWA. This development comes as a great disappointment to the animal protection community. Almost two years ago, as a result of settlement of a legal challenge, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it would begin regulating the treatment of animals under the AWA.

The AWA, enacted in 1966, is the primary federal law governing the treatment of animals used in research. In 1970, Congress extended the provisions of the AWA to include all warm-blooded vertebrates (i.e. mammals and birds). Following this Congressional amendment, the USDA issued new regulations that broadened the definition of "animal" but explicitly excluded bird and laboratory-bred mice and rats from coverage. Since that time, The HSUS and other animal protection organizations have worked to ensure that these species are included under the AWA regulations.

2. Primate Breeding Facility Indicted

LABS of Virginia, a South Carolina-based primate breeding facility, and three of its officers, have been indicted for allegedly violating federal wildlife protection laws in connection with four shipments of *Cynomolgus* monkeys that arrived in the U.S. from Indonesia in 1997. On April

2, a federal grand jury produced a 12-count indictment alleging that the shipments contained wild-caught macaques (a violation of Indonesian law) and that the shipping documents falsely stated that the shipments contained only captive-bred animals. In addition, the indictment alleges that three of the shipments contained nursing mothers and unweaned young – a violation of federal regulations.

LABS itself, as well as its president at the time of the incident, were charged in all 12 counts of the indictment. In addition, two current LABS officers (the Chairman of the Board and a board member) were each charged in the one misdemeanor count, which alleges trafficking in violation of a foreign law. An indictment contains only charges and is not a finding of guilt.

For more information, go to: www.ippl.org.

Sources: U.S. Department of Justice (Northern District of Illinois) press release; International Primate Protection League

3. NIMH Handbook on Welfare Considerations in Behavioral Research with Animals Now Available

The National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) recently issued a new handbook, *Methods and Welfare Considerations in Behavioral Research with Animals*. This resource, based on a past workshop, is intended, in part, to assist Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) members in their protocol evaluations, as well as researchers who conduct behavioral experiments. The topics in the handbook include but are not limited to: manipulation of food and fluid access, aversive stimuli, social variables, ethological approaches, and teaching with animals. The handbook is available for viewing online at: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/animals.cfm>. A limited number of printed copies are available. Contact NIMH at nimhinfo@nih.gov.

Source: OLAW

4. InterNICHE Announces Humane Education Award

The International Network for Humane Education (InterNICHE), an organization that focuses on animal use and alternatives within biological science and medical and veterinary education, is soliciting proposals for its 2002 Humane Education Award. This award will be presented to an instructor in the field of biology or veterinary or human medicine in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Serbia & Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania and Romania, for initiatives to replace harmful animal use in life science education. InterNICHE will make available 20,000 Euro to be split between two winning applicants (50% of the award in Summer 2002, 50% of the award in Fall 2002). InterNICHE asks that proposals include full contact details and curriculum vitae, as well as a detailed description with budget and timescale, and full contact details of two referees. Deadline for submission of proposals is May 30, 2002 (first half of the award) and September 10, 2002 (second half of the award). For more information, go to: www.interniche.org.

Source: InterNICH

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