



The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis June 7, 2002

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1. Survey Reveals Americans' Disapproval of the Use of Dogs and Chimps in Research

Americans are not comfortable with the idea of using dogs or chimpanzees in scientific research, according to the National Science Board's (NSB) *Science and Engineering Indicators 2002*. Only 44% of the adults in the 2001 NSB survey agreed with the use of dogs and chimpanzees in scientific research – a 6 % decrease from 1999. This is an indication of an overall decline in Americans' support of research involving "higher" species such as dogs and primates. Conversely, the poll shows that Americans tend to more readily accept the use of mice in research: 68% of adults agreed with the use of the mice in research; only 30% disagreed (3% responded as "Do not know").

Science and Engineering Indicators is a biennial report produced by the NSB (part of the National Science Foundation) for review by Congress. This report, the fifteenth in the series, contains quantitative analyses of primary aspects of the quality and scope of science and engineering in the United States. To review this document in its entirety, go to: www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/seind02/start.htm.

Source: National Science Board

2. Germany Will Soon Grant Constitutional Rights to Animals

May 17 – In a vote followed closely by the German biomedical research industry, the lower house of the German parliament (the Bundestag) has passed a bill that grants official rights to animals under the constitution. The revised constitutional language will soon read: "The state takes responsibility for protecting the natural foundations of life *and animals* (emphasis added) in the interest of future generations." 543 lawmakers in the Bundestag voted in favor of the bill and only 19 voted against it (another 15 abstained). The upper house of the German Parliament is expected to vote similarly this

summer. The decision followed a decade of debate in the parliament and three failed attempts to alter the constitution. The legal coverage of animals under the German constitution is expected to have an impact on the use of animals in laboratories, particularly in the testing of cosmetics and non-prescription drugs.

Sources: CNN.com; BBC news online

3. BUAV Releases Undercover Footage of Primate Research at Cambridge

The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) recently released video footage taken by an undercover investigator who worked at Cambridge University for over 10 months. The BUAV is accusing the University of conducting highly invasive brain research on primates without proper approval. It alleges that the invasive research procedures depicted on the video violate the specific terms of Home Office licenses granted to the University, whereby the animals should have experienced only “moderate suffering” under the terms of the licenses. The BUAV contends that the animals experienced extreme suffering. The video depicts animals with bleeding head wounds, severe bruises, and various mental and physical disabilities, as well as experiencing convulsions and vomiting.

Cambridge University issued a statement shortly after BUAV’s release of the undercover footage. The statement reads, in part: “The University is taking this matter extremely seriously and has launched a full-scale investigation into the claims made...” The expose´ comes on the heels of a statment by British Prime Minister Tony Blair in support of Cambridge University and its efforts to build a new primate research facility, which has been opposed by the BUAV and others.

For more information on this matter, please consult the BUAV website:
www.buav.org/zerooption/index.html.

Sources: BBC news; BUAV (www.buav.org)

4. Clarke County School District Votes Yes to Students Choice

In April 2002, The Clark County (Nevada) School Board voted unanimously for a Student Choice Amendment, which gives an alternative assignment to students who have ethical or moral views against animal dissection. The new policy applies to the approximately 270 schools and 250,000 students in the nation’s sixth largest school district. The policy change was initiated by Laurie Wolff. Normally a straight-A student, Laurie began collecting signatures and presented a petition at the December 2001 School Board meeting after receiving a C for refusing to dissect an earthworm. The Clark County School Board created a Student Choice Amendment after reviewing alternative education materials. With the help of The HSUS and various other animal protection organizations, the word got out in support of the amendment.

The HSUS runs a free Humane Education Loan Program (HELP) and a free advice service from trained biological scientists, to help schools implement alternatives to dissection. For more information about our HELP or the free consultancy service, contact ari@hsus.org or by telephone: 301-258-3041.

5. Proposed Legislation on Endocrine Disruption

House Representative Louise Slaughter (D-NY) recently introduced legislation that would authorize the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to spend up to \$500 million over five years to conduct research on endocrine disruptors in the environment. Under the Hormone Disruption Research Act of 2002, the NIEHS would work in conjunction with the U.S. Geological Survey to coordinate and carry out a national research program to tackle various issues, including whether chemicals that interfere and disrupt hormone function are causing human health problems; the extent to which people and wildlife are exposed to these chemicals; and the improvement of detection methods for endocrine disruption. During a recent press briefing, Representative Slaughter stated that, "To date, federal research on hormone disruption has been scattershot and underfunded, even as evidence about hormone disruption has grown. We have not done enough to determine hazards and protect the public from hormone disrupting chemicals."

As with the Environmental Protection Agency's federally-mandated Endocrine Disruption Screening Program (EDSP), the animal protection community is alarmed by the potential suffering and killing of the enormous number of research animals that would be used to study endocrine disruptors, should this legislation be enacted.

Source: Daily Environment Report, May 10, 2002

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**Animal Research News & Analysis** is an electronic newsletter that provides up-to-date news stories and interpretive analyses concerning the use of animals in research, testing, and education. The newsletter is produced by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and is distributed periodically. It serves as a source for information and is not a discussion list, so please do not reply to this message. Any questions, comments or email address changes should be directed to [ari@hsus.org](mailto:ari@hsus.org). To unsubscribe, please send an e-mail request to [ari@hsus.org](mailto:ari@hsus.org) with the words, "unsubscribe – Animal Research News" in the subject line; please specify your first and last name. The HSUS's collection of web-based animal research-related news stories can be viewed at: [www.hsus.org/ace/712](http://www.hsus.org/ace/712).

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