



# The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis July 1, 2002

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### **1. German Parliament Grants Final Approval to Animal Protection under the Constitution**

June 21 – Following approval by Germany's lower house of Parliament last month, the upper house has approved a bill that will provide protection to animals under the German Constitution. Article 20a of Germany's Basic Law will now read: "The state takes responsibility for protecting the natural foundations of life and animals in the interest of future generations" (emphasis added). Government officials in Germany expect that the passage of this bill will generate new legislation that will limit the use of animals in the safety testing of cosmetics and personal care products.

*Source: Agence France Presse*

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### **2. NIH Calls for a Review of UNC's Animal Care and Use Program**

Following a formal complaint by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) against the University of North Carolina (UNC) last April, the National Institutes of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) recently sent a letter ordering UNC to conduct a thorough review of the animal care and use program at its Chapel Hill campus. OLAW recommended that the investigation include a full review of the policies and practices pertaining to the alleged violations brought forth by PETA, in addition to interviews with current and former animal care staff. The results of the investigation are expected to be submitted to the NIH in August, 2002.

*Source: The Daily Tarheel*

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### **3. Controversial OSU Researcher Will Depart This Summer**

Michael Podell, associate professor of veterinary clinical sciences and neurosciences at Ohio State University (OSU), will be leaving OSU in the aftermath of sustained criticism of his research from the animal protection community. He studied the effects of experimental methamphetamine use in cats infected with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), which bears some resemblance to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in humans.

Podell received a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for \$1.68 million in 2000 to carry out this project. Since then he has infected over 100 cats with FIV; some of the cats were also given methamphetamine (more commonly known as “speed”). Podell’s main objective was to investigate whether methamphetamines use stimulates the replication of the FIV virus in humans. Animal protectionists criticized the study’s applicability to humans.

It is unclear at this point whether or not Podell will resume this research at his new position (which remains undisclosed) or the project will remain at OSU; NIH awarded the grant to the OSU Research Foundation and not to Podell directly.

*Source: The Columbus Dispatch*

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### **4. European Parliament Supports a Marketing Ban on Cosmetics Tested on Animals**

On June 11, 2002, the European Parliament (EP) voted in favor of a European Union (EU)-wide ban on the sale of cosmetics tested on animals. Specifically, the vote was for the following:

- An EU ban for animal-tested cosmetics by December 31, 2004.
- An immediate ban on the sale of new animal-tested cosmetics where non-animal alternative testing methods already exist.
- A ban on the sale of new animal-tested cosmetics within 5 years; and within 10 years for all other cosmetics for three test areas (reproductive toxicity, toxicokinetics and repeat dose toxicity).
- For new animal-tested cosmetics, labeling that will inform the consumer that the product has been tested on animals.
- Labeling for “cruelty-free” cosmetics that will inform the consumer that the product has not been tested on animals.

The proposed legislation is intended to ensure that not only will animal testing for cosmetics be phased out in the EU, but that the cosmetics companies do not relocate their testing to facilities outside of the EU. Many observers anticipate that the legislation will face strong opposition when it comes up for consideration by the European Commission, which is concerned that a marketing ban on non-EU products could violate World Trade Organization (WTO) regulations.

Animal protectionists consider the proposed testing and marketing ban of animal-testing cosmetics integral to significantly reducing the number of animals killed each year for the safety

testing of cosmetics and personal care products. It has been estimated that 38,000 animals are used annually for this purpose in the EU.

*Sources: Reuters, The British Union for the Abolishment of Vivisection; Local Government International Bureau (UK) website*

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