



The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis September 23, 2002

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1. Florida Sanctuary Purchases Coulston Foundation and Retires Nearly 300 Primates

The Florida-based Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care (CCCC) announced on Wednesday, September 18, that it had purchased the Coulston Foundation (TCF) facilities in Alamogordo, New Mexico and will permanently care for approximately 266 chimpanzees and 61 monkeys from the research facility.

The announcement follows years of pressure from animal protection advocates who were critical of the facility's animal care. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) had delivered a crippling blow in June 2001 when it terminated funding to TCF; the lab had reportedly received as much as two thirds of its annual budget from the federal agency. In December 2001, the First National Bank of Alamogordo filed a foreclosure lawsuit claiming that the facility owed more than \$1.16 million in outstanding loans.

CCCC, headed by Dr. Carole Noon, bought Coulston's property on the condition that TCF donate all its primates to her Florida sanctuary. The purchase was made possible by a \$3.7 million grant from the Arcus Foundation of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Several animal protection organizations also provided financial support.

TCF, which once housed 650 chimpanzees and was the largest captive chimpanzee colony in the world, had a history of violating federal regulations and guidelines. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) charged TCF at least four separate times with violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including negligent deaths of research animals. In August 1999, TCF agreed to surrender 300 chimpanzees (reportedly almost half its population) and submit to outside oversight in order to settle AWA violations. TCF also faced possible disqualification by the Food

and Drug Administration (FDA) for widespread and continuous violations of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) regulations.

Sources: PR Newswire; 12th Judicial District Court of New Mexico; The Food and Drug Administration; The HSUS

2. The HSUS Honors David Morton as the 2002 Russell & Burch Award Recipient

Dr. David Morton is the recipient of this year's Russell & Burch Award, which is awarded by The HSUS to scientists who have made outstanding contributions toward the advancement of alternative methods in the areas of biomedical research, testing, or higher education. Dr. Morton, a professor and veterinarian at the University of Birmingham in England, was recognized for his extensive work in the development and promotion of refinement techniques, which minimize pain and distress in research animals.

Dr. Morton developed scoring systems for assessing the impact of experimental procedures on the welfare of laboratory animals. These systems not only provide an overall measure of the impact of experiments in terms of animal suffering and harm, but they are also used to identify early clinical signs that reliably predict experimental outcomes, such as death. Once identified, these early signs (e.g., changes in body temperature) can often be substituted for the standard endpoints. This process thereby allows the termination of experiments before the onset of severe pain, distress, or death and spares the animals the associated suffering. Such refinements have come to be known as "humane endpoints", a field that Dr. Morton has pioneered.

The Russell & Burch Award is named in honor of William Russell and Rex Burch, the scientists who formulated the Three Rs approach of replacement, reduction, and refinement. (The Three Rs, also known as alternatives, are methods that can replace or reduce the use of animals in specific procedures, or refine procedures so that animals experience less pain or suffering). The award, which carries a \$5,000 prize, is bestowed every three years at the World Congresses on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, which this year was held in New Orleans in August and was hosted by The HSUS.

3. New Jersey State Senate Unanimously Approves Student-Choice Bill

On September 12, the New Jersey State Senate voted 37–0 in favor of a bill that would allow public school students to opt out of biology class dissections without penalty. If approved by the state's Assembly and governor, New Jersey would become the tenth state to enact such a law.

Joseph Suliga (D-Union) introduced the legislation, Senate Bill 240, three years ago when he served in the New Jersey Assembly, after receiving a complaint from a local high school honor student who was ethically opposed to dissection but still wanted to learn about animal biology. Suliga's bill, which followed him to the state Senate when he moved from the Assembly, states that schools must provide students with alternative projects when they opt out of dissections. "After I looked into it, for the one day they dissect the animals, it's really not an integral part of the educational process. There [are] other alternatives," Suliga told *The Star-Ledger*.

The HSUS plays an active role in encouraging educators and students to implement humane yet innovative teaching methods into biology curricula. The HSUS's Humane Education Loan Program (HELP) is a free service that loans a wide variety of items ranging from videos to CD-ROMs to lifelike models. HSUS's Director for Education and Animal Welfare, Dr. Lesley King, notes that the "learning experience associated with using alternatives is still hands-on and investigative, and the students get the same extent and quality of instruction. They just don't have to harm animals in the process."

Sources: The Star-Ledger (September 13), The HSUS

4. Update on Jerusalem Hebrew University Animal Research Case

Following an appeal by several Israeli animal protection organizations, an Israeli court has given the government-based Council for Animal Experiments 45 days to justify its decision to allow Jerusalem Hebrew University to conduct a neurological research project involving macaque monkeys. The Court, however, denied the organizations' request to prevent the research project from continuing until the Court reached a final decision. The Court also denied the petitioners' plea that it cancel the general permit given by the Council to the University for animal-based research. Nonetheless, as a result of the appeal, the Council plans to create an audit committee that will oversee compliance with the provisions of its permits.

Source: Ha`aretz, August 29, 2002

5. Kermit the Frog Thwarts Dissection in His New Home Video

September 3 -- Columbia Tri-Star Home Entertainment's new film 'Kermit's Swamp Years' chronicles Kermit the Frog's adventures as a youngster when he and his two friends, Croaker and Goggles, leave the swamp to explore the outside world. At the pinnacle of the movie, Kermit must save his lifelong pal Croaker from the deadly hands of Dr. Krassman, a villainous biology teacher.

"This is a clever and funny film, but Kermit's message is also a serious one: that dissection involves taking the life of an animal," says Dr. Lesley King, Director for Education and Animal Welfare at The Humane Society of the United States. "This message is echoed by the concerns of many students who request alternatives to dissection from The HSUS's free Humane Education Loan Program. Children will be enchanted by the characters in this film and, in some way, Kermit will help them to see things from the frog's perspective."

The HSUS's 'animals in education' program works proactively with students and teachers to introduce humane alternatives to traditional animal-based classes like dissection, through its Humane Education Loan Program and advice and consultancy services. Find out more at www.hsus.org/ace/11368 or call 301-258-3041.

Sources: Columbia Tristar Home Entertainment; Internet Movie Database; Amazon.com

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. To unsubscribe, please send an e-mail request to 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.

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