



The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis October 15, 2002

In this Issue...

- 1. University of North Carolina Submits Animal Research Review to NIH**
- 2. Baltimore County Student Allowed to Avoid Dissection**
- 3. NIH Awards Contract to Chimp Haven for Care of Retired Chimps**
- 4. AWI Announces Online Database on Refinement and Environmental Enrichment**

1. University of North Carolina Submits Animal Research Review to NIH

September 25 – Officials at the University of North Carolina (UNC)–Chapel Hill submitted a 44-page report to the National Institutes of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) in response to an investigation of its animal research laboratories. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) had released video footage taken by an investigator who worked undercover at UNC for several months. The exposé prompted OLAW, which oversees compliance with animal research guidelines at NIH-funded research institutions, to call for the University to review its animal research program.

Since the release of the video footage and the subsequent investigation by UNC's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (which oversees compliance internally), UNC officials have stated that some changes have been made (e.g. the suspension of a researcher featured in the video footage, expansion of training), while others (concerning, for example, dead animal disposal, rodent overcrowding) are still in progress. UNC denied that some practices depicted in the video or criticized in PETA's exposé (including alleged improper euthanasia techniques) were violations of NIH guidelines. NIH is expected to issue an official finding early next year.

Sources: The Daily Tar Heel, September 24, 2002; The News and Observer, September 25, 2002 (Raleigh, NC)

2. Baltimore County Student Allowed to Avoid Dissection

September 26 - Following a tumultuous chain of events last week that was chronicled by local and national media, the Baltimore County, Maryland school system reversed itself and is

allowing an honors student to opt out of a cat dissection and to learn anatomy using computer software. Jennifer Watson, a 16-year old straight A honors student at Kenwood high school in Essex, Md., objected to performing the dissection in her honors anatomy and physiology class because of her ethical concerns. Although her mother offered to purchase computer software for Jennifer to use in lieu of the dissection, Jennifer was told she had no choice but to dissect the cat. As a result, she abandoned the course.

After learning of Jennifer's situation, representatives from The HSUS and other local and national animal protection organizations made formal representations at the county school board meeting, presenting the case for student choice and the implementation of alternatives to dissection, which allow students to learn the material without harming animals and compromising their beliefs.

After considering the evidence, the Baltimore County school district's Office of Science overturned its original decision and not only allowed Jennifer to return to her class without having to dissect a cat, but also promised to provide her and any other students with alternatives. Kenwood High's principal stated, "We have the CD ready to go, and we have our plans in place, and we can deliver a good program. We will give this option to other students."

Sources: Baltimore Sun; The HSUS

3. NIH Awards Contract to Chimp Haven for Care of Retired Chimps

September 30 – The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that it is awarding a contract to Chimp Haven, Inc. for the establishment and operation of a sanctuary system for federally-owned or supported chimpanzees who are determined to be no longer needed for biomedical research. The creation of such a national sanctuary system is mandated by the federal Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection (CHIMP) Act of 2000. NIH's National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) will provide approximately \$19 million in total costs. In addition, NCRR will also provide a \$5 million grant, separate from the contract funding, for the support of construction fees.

Chimp Haven, located in Shreveport, LA, is a private, non-profit organization that specializes in the long-term care of chimpanzees who are no longer used in research or entertainment. The initial sanctuary facility, expected to be completed in Spring 2004, will be able to house up to 200 chimpanzees. Invasive medical research will be prohibited at the sanctuary.

A poll conducted earlier this year for The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) indicated that 79% of Americans support the creation of government-funded sanctuaries for chimpanzees who are considered no longer suitable for research.

To view NIH's press release on this announcement, please go to:

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/sep2002/ncrr-30.htm>.

Source: NIH News Release, September 30, 2002; The HSUS

4. AWI Announces Online Database on Refinement and Environmental Enrichment

The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) has announced the availability of a new annotated database that combines the themes of refinement techniques and environmental enrichment for all species of animals used in research. The database contains almost 3000 entries, which provide citations, annotations, keywords, and in some cases, URLs for full-text documents. Examples of primary keywords include: *abnormal behavior, feeding enrichment, guidelines and laws, safety concerns, and species-typical behavior*. The database is slated to be updated every 1-3 months.

The database can be accessed at: http://www.awionline.org/lab_animals/biblio/laball.htm.

Source: Animal Welfare Institute

~~~~~

**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).

*Animal Research Issues, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)  
(301) 258-3041, <http://www.hsus.org/ace/11348>*



**~~Please feel free to forward this newsletter to a colleague or friend whom you think may be interested in receiving it.~~**