



The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis November 4, 2002

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1. HSUS Announces Recipients of the 2002 Animals & Society Course Awards

A panel of outside experts has recently selected the recipients of The HSUS's Animals & Society Course Awards for 2002. The awards recognize excellence in the teaching of issues concerning the relationship between people and animals.

Normally two awards are given annually, one for an established course and one for new course. This year two courses were recognized in the established course category: "Animal Welfare," taught by Professor Joy Mench of the University of California, Davis and "Issues Concerning Use of Animals by Humans," taught by Drs. David Zartman and Stephen Boyles of the Ohio State University, Columbus. The winner in the new course category was "Animals and People," taught by Professor Tracy Smith-Harris of the University College of Cape Breton (Sydney, Nova Scotia).

Winning courses are recognized with a certificate and a \$1,500 prize (divided evenly in years for which an award is split among two or more winners) and bestowed to the institutional department in which the course is taught. The goals of the awards are to help enhance instruction in the winning courses and to foster the wider availability of high-quality curricula and instruction in a variety of relevant academic fields.

Source: The Humane Society of the United States

2. Chimpanzees In European Labs Soon be Retired to Sanctuaries

On October 4, the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture, and Science and the Director of the Netherlands' Biomedical Primate Research Center (BPRC) signed a contract for the permanent transfer and retirement of 59 chimpanzees from the BPRC to the Stichting AAP Sanctuaries for

Primates and other Exotic Animals in the Netherlands and Spain. The transfer of the chimps to the sanctuary facilities will take place during 2003 and 2004, once new facilities have been constructed. The Dutch government has agreed to pay for the construction and for the lifetime care of the chimpanzees.

The contract signing is the result of the Dutch government's decision to ban the use of great apes in biomedical research. One exemption to the ban has been approved and six chimpanzees will be used in Hepatitis C research; these are the last remaining chimpanzees to be used for biomedical research in the European Union.

Sources: International Primate Protection League website

3. ECVAM Appoints Thomas Hartung as New Head

The European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) has appointed Thomas Hartung as its new Head, succeeding Michael Balls. ECVAM, based in Ispra, Italy, is the European Union's focal point for validating and promoting alternative methods. Hartung, who took up his new duties in October, was a professor in the Department of Biochemical Pharmacology at the University of Konstanz in Germany. He has had an extensive history of working with ECVAM; in recent years he co-authored ECVAM workshop reports on pyrogen testing and long-term toxicity testing.

Michael Balls, the outgoing ECVAM Head, has returned to England and retains his position as chairman of the trustees of the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME), in Nottingham.

Sources: ECVAM; Alternatives to Animal Testing on the Web (www.altweb.jhsph.edu)

4. New Zealand Animal Use Statistics for 2001

The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) of New Zealand recently published its 2001 annual report on animal use in research, testing, and education. The statistics reveal a small decrease (almost 2%) in the number of animals used from the previous year. Mice, fish, sheep, and cattle were the most commonly used species. 84% of animals experienced little to no suffering in scientific procedures, 10% experienced moderate suffering, 1% experienced severe suffering, and 5% experienced very severe suffering. These figures represent a sharp decrease in the severe/very severe suffering classifications from 14% in 2000 to 5% in 2001. The NAEAC attributes this drop to a significant decrease in the use of mice from 2000 (mice are the most common species in the "severe" and "very severe" suffering categories).

Most animal use occurred in government (31%), commercial facilities (26%), Crown Research Institutes (24%), and universities (19%). The most common purposes of animal use included: environmental management (33%), commercial work (24%), basic biological research (14%), and veterinary research (10%).

Source: NAEAC 2001 Annual Report

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