



The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis January 31, 2003

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1. EU Edges Closer to a Ban on the Animal Testing of Cosmetics

The European Parliament voted unanimously on January 15 to ban the testing of cosmetics on animals, as well as the sale and import of new cosmetics tested on animals. After months of disagreement, the proposals were agreed upon last year by a Conciliation Committee comprising representatives from the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers from all 15 member states of the European Union (EU). The parliament has now given its assent, but the full Council of Ministers must also vote before the proposals become EU law.

Once the proposals become law, the ban on the animal testing of cosmetics will not take effect until 2009. The sales ban pertains to 11 animal-test areas and will come into force in 2009 regardless of the development of non-animal replacement tests. However, for three other areas (reproductive toxicity, toxicokinetics and repeat dose toxicity), the sales ban will not take effect until 2013. Even then, the 2013 deadline is contingent on the development of non-animal tests, which animal protectionists in the EU consider to be a worrisome loophole. Wendy Higgins, Campaigns Director for the London-based British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV), stated that the "'get out clause' potentially allows industry to side-step a total sales ban by claiming that insufficient non-animal tests are available."

Sources: BUAV; CNN, January 15, 2002 (www.cnn.com); European Parliament website; Bureau of National Affairs' International Trade Reporter

2. CAAT Calls for Grant Proposals for 2004-2005

The Johns Hopkins University's Center for the Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT) is soliciting research proposals in the areas of refinement and developmental toxicology for 2004-2005. The maximum grant for refinement projects is \$25,000 and for developmental toxicity

projects is \$40,000. Refinement studies should focus on the development of improved methods for pain assessment, alleviation, elimination and/or prevention of pain in animal-based research projects. CAAT is also interested in studies focusing specifically on developmental neuro- or immunotoxicology. According to CAAT's announcement, these studies can be either *in-vitro* or involve species such as *C. elegans* (a roundworm) and zebrafish; whole-animal, mammalian studies would not be funded.

To apply for one of these grants, please visit: <http://caat.jhsph.edu/programs/grants/proposal-form.html>.

Source: CAAT

3. Alberto-Culver Formalizes its No-Animal-Testing Policy

December 10, 2002 – The Alberto-Culver Company announced that it has formalized an internal company ban that prohibits all animal testing. Dr. John Berschied, Alberto-Culver's Vice President of World-Wide Research and Development, noted that the company's internal testing ban had been in place for the past decade and that, during that time, almost no animal testing had taken place. Furthermore, 95% of the products sold by the company have never been tested on animals.

In its press statement, Alberto-Culver credited the Center for the Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT) at Johns Hopkins University for its help in identifying a number of non-animal testing methods, which were independently assessed by Alberto-Culver. Berschied stated: "While we have long been committed to the Three Rs philosophy – actively seeking to Refine, Reduce and Replace the use of animals in testing procedures – until the completion of this latest round of validation by CAAT, the company was reluctant to make any public announcement that there were no conditions under which it might be necessary to test a specific product." Alberto-Culver, based in Melrose Park, Illinois, markets personal care and household products, most notably Alberto VO5® hair care products.

Source: Alberto-Culver press release

4. Mouse Genome Sequenced

Scientists have finished sequencing the genome of mice, the most commonly used animals in biomedical research in the United States. To date, the mouse is the only mammalian species, other than humans, whose genome has been sequenced. The comprehensive analysis has revealed that approximately 99% of the genes in humans have counterparts in the mouse, 80% of which are completely identical. This latest sequencing endeavor was led by geneticists Robert Waterson of the Washington University Genome Sequencing Center in St. Louis, Missouri and Kerstin Lindblad-Toh of the Whitehead Institute/MIT Center for Genome Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Although there are a multitude of similarities between the mouse and human genomes, marked differences exist with regard to length of the genomes (2.5 billion base pairs in mice versus 3 billion in humans) and the type of genes (e.g. mice have more genes involved in reproduction, vision, and immunity). Nonetheless, many in the research community anticipate that the information gleaned from the mouse sequencing will help answer questions regarding human

diseases by focusing more quickly on the specific genes that trigger the ailments. Animal protectionists are concerned that the new findings will lead to increased use of mice, despite their lack of protection under the Animal Welfare Act.

Sources: CNN (www.cnn.com); Science

5. India Removes Maneka Gandhi from Post Overseeing Animal Research

December 23, 2002 – The Indian government has removed Maneka Gandhi as head of its department overseeing animal experiments. Mrs. Gandhi has an international reputation as a staunch animal protectionist. She was removed from her leadership position at the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) because, among other charges, as a sitting member of Parliament she could not simultaneously hold such a position, according to government rules.

Mrs. Gandhi had been in the news frequently in recent months. In July, 2002 she was removed from the Union government's Cabinet following a clash with the former Union Health Minister, C.P. Thakur, over the care and use of research animals in India. Some observers believe that Mrs. Gandhi's recent dismissals have resulted from her aggressive enforcement actions against research institutions.

Source: *The Hindu*, December 24, 2002

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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