



The Humane Society of the United States'

Animal Research News & Analysis

March 13, 2003

In this Issue...

- 1. Use of Live Animals at U.S. Medical Schools Continues to Decline**
- 2. Cambridge University Cleared of Animal Mistreatment Charges**
- 3. New InterNICHE Book on Humane Education**
- 4. New Brochure on the Use of Birds in Research**
- 5. Animal Research-Related Papers Available in JAAWS**

1. Use of Live Animals at U.S. Medical Schools Continues to Decline

A 2001 survey of U.S. medical schools shows that the use of live animals in medical education continues to decline, as reflected in the percentage of medical schools still using live animals in education. The survey, conducted by Dr. Lawrence Hansen and Dr. Gerry Boss from the University of California – San Diego, was sent to the pharmacology, physiology, and surgery departments of all 125 medical schools in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The results indicate that 68% of U.S. medical schools do not use live animals in any physiology, pharmacology, or surgery courses. Live animals were used in 5% of the pharmacology courses and in 18% of the physiology and surgery courses. Participation was optional in 76% of the courses where live animals were used and the frequency of students opting out of live animal laboratories varied from none to over half. Compared to similar surveys conducted in 1994 and earlier, the results indicate a continued decline in the use of animals in pharmacology and physiology courses; however, the use of live animals in surgery courses has remained constant.

Source: Academic Medicine 2002; 77(11):1147-9

2. Cambridge University Cleared of Animal Mistreatment Charges

February 11 – Following a 10-month undercover investigation by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) at a Cambridge University primate research facility, the British Government's Home Office dismissed the allegations, finding "nothing seriously untoward" at the laboratory. The Home Office's ruling on this matter is contained in a report entitled: "Aspects of Non-human Primate Research at Cambridge University – A Review by the Chief Inspector."

Following the May, 2002 release of the undercover video, the BUAV accused Cambridge University of conducting highly invasive brain research on primates without proper approval. It alleged that the invasive research procedures depicted on the video violated the specific terms of the Home Office licenses granted to the university, whereby the animals should have only experienced “moderate suffering”. The BUAV contended that the animals experienced extreme suffering and urged for the university’s license to be revoked. The Home Office chief inspector concluded that, despite a “few technical infringements,” BUAV’s charges were unsubstantiated and the university’s licenses have been awarded under the proper severity bands. In a statement responding to the Home Office, the BUAV noted that the organization is “utterly appalled and deeply angered by the Home Office’s complete dismissal of overwhelming evidence of animal suffering. Unsurprisingly, the Inspectorate has yet again exonerated itself of any wrong-doing in the face of indisputable evidence to the contrary.”

Sources: Cambridge News, February 12, 2003; BUAV (www.buav.org); Home Office

3. New InterNICHE Book on Humane Education

The International Network for Humane Education (InterNICHE) has just published the 2nd edition of *From Guinea Pig to Computer Mouse: Alternative Methods for a Progressive, Humane Education*. This 544-page book is a comprehensive resource detailing over 500 of the latest alternative materials for biological science, veterinary and medical education. Case studies demonstrate how university teachers have replaced the harmful use of animals and improved the quality of education in their departments. The product areas pertain to anatomy, surgery, critical care, physiology, and pharmacology. In addition, there are 800 other resources that provide links to informational websites and printed material, relevant organizations across the world, and companies that produce and distribute alternatives.

From Guinea Pig to Computer Mouse provides a clear indication that a high quality science or medical evaluation does not have to harm animals. It is written for life science teachers, students, university ethics groups, legislators, civil liberties and animal protection organizations. For more information or to read reviews of the book, visit: <http://www.interniche.org>. U.S. residents should contact The HSUS at ari@hsus.org for information on how to obtain a copy.

Source: InterNICHE

4. New Brochure on the Use of Birds in Research

The New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS), in collaboration with United Poultry Concerns (UPC), has produced a new brochure that provides an overview of the animal protection concerns regarding the use of birds in agriculture and biomedical research. Entitled “The Use of Birds in Agriculture and Biomedical Research,” the brochure notes that birds such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, quail, and pigeons receive no legal protection under the regulations of the federal Animal Welfare Act, which addresses animal use in biomedical research. As a result, these animals are not counted in the annual census of research animals compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The brochure is based on a more comprehensive paper on “The

Experimental Use of Chickens and Other Birds in Biomedical and Agricultural Research” available at www.neavs.org and www.upc-online.org.

Sources: NEAVS; UPC

5. Animal Research-Related Papers Available in JAAWS

The Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science (JAAWS) publishes peer-reviewed reports and articles that discuss methods of experimentation, husbandry, and care that enhance the welfare of animals in homes, laboratories, the wild, and on farms. Volume 5, Issue 2 features two papers that focus on laboratory settings. “Effects of Environmental Enrichment for Mice: Variation in Experimental Results,” by Heleen van de Weerd and colleagues at Utrecht University, examines the effects of different enriched environments on several psychological and behavioral parameters in mice undergoing two different types of routine testing procedures. “Cage Use and Feeding Height Preferences of Captive Common Marmoset in Two-Tier Cage,” written by Hannah Buchanan-Smith and colleagues at the University of Stirling (Scotland), examines common marmosets’ height preferences for food bowls.

To view the journal’s table of contents and abstracts, or to obtain subscription information, go to: www.psyeta.org.

Source: *Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals*

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.

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~~