



The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis April 8, 2003

In this Issue...

- 1. ARDF Calls for Research Proposals**
- 2. 2000 Canadian Animal Use Statistics Now Available**
- 3. Imaging Techniques that May Reduce Animal Use and Research Costs**
- 4. A Survey of the French Public's Views on Animal Research**
- 5. New Dutch Graduate School to Focus on Alternatives to Animal Research**

1. ARDF Calls for Research Proposals

The Alternatives Research & Development Foundation is soliciting research proposals on the development of alternatives to the traditional uses of animals in basic research, product testing, and education. Grants of up to \$40,000 are available for individual projects at U.S. universities and research institutions. Applications for non-U.S. institutions or researchers may be considered on a case-by-case basis. The application deadline is April 30, 2003 and award announcements will be made on July 15, 2003. For more information, go to: <http://www.ardf-online.org>.

Sources: ARDF

2. 2000 Canadian Animal Use Statistics Now Available

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) recently released its annual report of animal use in Canada for 2000. The number of animals used in scientific procedures for research, testing, and education totaled 1,954,059, an increase of 12% from 1999. Mice, rats, fish, and domestic birds accounted for approximately 80% of the total, a pattern consistent with data from preceding years. In 2000, animals were used for the following purposes (in decreasing order of use): studies of a fundamental nature (57%), clinical studies (19%), regulatory testing (13%), product development (8%), and educational purposes (3%). 33% of the animals were used in experiments that caused moderate to severe distress, pain, or discomfort ("Categories of Invasiveness" D & E).

To view the results in their entirety, visit: <http://www.ccac.ca/english/facts/pdfs/aus2000-all.pdf>.

Source: CCAC

3. Imaging Techniques that May Reduce Animal Use and Research Costs

Researchers at the University of Washington in Seattle are developing minimally invasive techniques for whole-body imaging of mice that are expected to reduce animal use and research costs. Positron emission tomography (PET) would enable data gathering through imaging of live mice, rather than euthanizing the animals and analyzing their tissues. Each scan takes approximately one hour, during which the mice are lightly anesthetized. A small amount of a radioactive substance is injected into the animal. This substance subsequently accumulates in tissues with high metabolic activity (e.g. cancerous tumors). Images are then taken of these areas of the body. PET scanning was recently tested for feasibility on 51 transgenic mice from two gerontology studies. Researchers were able to detect functional and anatomic alternations in 23 of the mice ranging from 12-24 months of age. *The HSUS hopes that this technology, if broadly applied, is used to identify humane endpoints, which allow experiments to be ended sooner, thereby sparing animals from additional suffering.*

Sources: *The Scientist*, March 10, 2003 (www.MedStarHealth.org)

4. A Survey of the French Public's Views on Animal Research

March 11 - OneVoice, an animal protection organization based in France, recently commissioned an opinion poll of 1000+ French citizens aged 15 and over regarding the use of animals in research and testing. The results suggest substantial opposition to using animals for scientific experiments, especially those that cause animals to suffer. Some of the key findings are as follows:

- 64% of the respondents somewhat or completely disagree with the use of animals in research and testing;
- 87% believe that research which causes animals to suffer should be prohibited;
- 85% support potential animal use alternatives such as computer technology, cell cultures, and statistical models;
- 60% agree that animal testing for cosmetics should be banned;
- 72% support a total ban on the use of dogs and cats in research and testing;
- 70% feel that governmental regulations are insufficient to curb animal experimentation.

To view the full-text of the survey results (in French), go to: http://www.experimentation-animale.org/ressources/rapports/ipsos_onevoice.pdf.

Sources: *OneVoice*; *Cordis News Service*

5. New Dutch Graduate School to Focus on Alternatives to Animal Research

The University of Utrecht is launching a new graduate school devoted to the replacement of animal-based experiments with non-animal alternative methods. The Netherlands-based university is collaborating on this project with the Netherlands Center for Alternatives (NCA) and the Dutch anti-vivisection group. Students in the program will learn how to design and validate alternative tests in an animal-free curriculum. According to Frank Lommers, head of the University of Utrecht's Institute of Life Sciences and Chemistry, "Our students will create and help produce alternatives that [address] questions from society and research. This way the number of animal experiments will be strongly reduced, without negative affect on the quality of research..."

Source: University of Utrecht press release

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