



The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis April 30, 2003

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1. **New Campaign Promotes Animal Research for the Sake of Animals**

The Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR) recently launched a public relations campaign that promotes the use of animals in biomedical research as a means of advancing veterinary medicine. The *Survivors* campaign consists of shopping mall advertisements, TV and radio public service announcements, print materials "suitable for display in veterinary offices", and veterinary appointment reminder cards for companion animal caretakers. The campaign is based on an FBR study which revealed that people are more likely to support the use of animals in research when it benefits animals as well as humans. FBR is the educational sister organization of the more politically focused National Association for Biomedical Research.

The HSUS believes that the "Survivors" campaign fails to convey an accurate picture of animal research, the vast majority of which is aimed at improving human health. The FBR claims that only 7% of animals used in research experience pain and/or distress. The HSUS contends that this figure, which is based on a questionable and self-serving interpretation of statistics reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is a gross underestimate of animal suffering in research.

Source: *The Foundation for Biomedical Research* (<http://www.fbresearch.org>)

2. **Sweden Bans Use of Great Apes and Gibbons for Research**

The Swedish government recently exempted all great apes and nine species of Gibbons from research procedures, as part of a new set of regulations pertaining to the use of animals in research. Great apes include chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, and orangutans. Gibbons

comprise various species of smaller apes. Although Sweden does not currently use any of these animals in its research, “the decision marks an important shift in official policy, since it implicitly recognizes the individual moral worth of primates,” stated Per-Anders Svärd of Animal Rights Sweden. Sweden joins a small but growing list of countries (including Great Britain, Japan, New Zealand, and the Netherlands) that have banned the use of great apes in biomedical research.

A recent HSUS analysis indicated that 1,200 chimpanzees are housed in U.S. research laboratories; it is not known how many of these animals are used in actual research each year. (No other great apes are currently used in the U.S.) The HSUS has called for a ban on the use of great apes in biomedical research in the United States. We are also calling for permanent and prompt relocation of great apes from research institutions to suitable sanctuaries.

Source: Animal Rights Sweden (<http://www.djurensratt.org>)

3. Alternative Test Guideline Available for Skin Sensitization

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently announced the availability of an alternative test guideline for assessing the potential of chemicals to cause skin sensitization, also known as allergic contact dermatitis or ACD. (A familiar cause of ACD in the United States is the Poison Ivy plant.) The new method, the Murine Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA), uses fewer animals (in this case mice) and causes less suffering per animal than the traditional method, the Guinea Pig Maximization Test. The LLNA is now considered to be the “preferred method.” In 1998, the U.S. Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) approved the LLNA as a validated alternative to the guinea pig test. Last year the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) adopted the LLNA as part of its internationally harmonized test guidelines program.

The HSUS hopes that the period of time between the federal government’s approval of an alternative method and that method’s adoption as an official guideline—in this case a matter of years-- will decrease dramatically as the government gains more experience evaluating and implementing methods that replace, reduce, or refine animal use.

Sources: ICCVAM (<http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/docs/EPA/6814635.pdf>)

4. New Resource for Disaster Preparedness in Research Facilities

The National Institutes of Health’s Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) has announced the availability of a new online resource on disaster preparedness in animal research facilities. The website, developed by the Laboratory Animal Management Association (LAMA) and supported in part by OLAW, contains information from LAMA’s May 2002 meeting entitled, “Earth, Wind, and Fire: Avoiding Blood, Sweat and Tears,” which brought together experts in disaster preparedness and response, as well as institutional representatives who have experienced natural disasters in research facilities.

Source: OLAW, LAMA (<http://www.lama-online.org/OLAW-1.html>)

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## 5. New Resource for Lay Members of Ethical Review Process

The UK-based Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) recently published a resource book for lay members of local Ethical Review Processes (ERPs). (ERPs play a role similar to that of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees or IACUCs in the U.S.) The resource book is based on two past meetings of lay members of local ERPs and others involved/interested in the work of ERPs. The book provides guidance on a wide range of topics pertaining to the work of lay members, such as the roles of lay member, ethical review of research projects, and the evaluation of animal facilities. Although the book is focused on the United Kingdom, much of its information is applicable to IACUCs and similar committees around the world.

Source: RSPCA (<http://www.rspca.org.uk>)

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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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