



# The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis July 7, 2004

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### 1. New Allegations of Animal Abuse Made Against UNC

A year after its initial undercover investigation and exposé of the University of North Carolina (UNC), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is claiming that the UNC continues to violate federal animal welfare standards. A second PETA undercover investigation, from January to November 2003, has allegedly found evidence of overcrowding leading to suffocation and cannibalism, insufficient veterinary care leading mice to endure oversized ulcerated tumors that later burst, inadequate food and water, inhumane euthanasia practices that included decapitation of fully conscious animals with a dull blade, and toe clipping (amputation).

PETA's first exposé at the Chapel Hill-based facility prompted the National Institutes of Health's Office of Animal Welfare (OLAW) to investigate. OLAW reported in April that UNC adequately addressed the problems they found at the facility. Following the second undercover investigation, PETA Senior Vice President Mary Beth Sweetland said, "UNC has failed miserably to correct the gross deficiencies identified through our first investigation. We urge the [NIH] to immediately withdraw UNC's assurance and freeze current projects involving animals until such a time as a thorough on-site investigation can be conducted by the government."

Sources: PETA, May 12, 2004 (<http://www.peta.org/feat/UNC/page/uncLaw.pdf>); *The Daily Tarheel*, May 20, 2004 ([http://www.dailytarheel.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2004/05/20/40ac97d3d09f5?in\\_archive=1](http://www.dailytarheel.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2004/05/20/40ac97d3d09f5?in_archive=1)); *The Herald Sun*, May 12, 2004

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### 2. Nelson Garnett Retires as Head of OLAW

Nelson Garnett retired on June 1<sup>st</sup> as director of the National Institutes of Health Office of Laboratory Welfare (NIH/OLAW). OLAW oversees compliance by research facilities with the Public Health Service *Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* and the NIH *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Dr. Garnett was a frequent speaker at conferences on laboratory animal science and ethics, such as the annual conference hosted by Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research, where he updated conferees on OLAW's activities.

In 1991, Garnett became director of what was then called the Office for Protection from Research Risks' Division of Animal Welfare (DAW). DAW was elevated to OLAW in 2000. In a recent announcement distributed widely, Dr. Garnett stated: "I would like to take this opportunity to say that it has been a privilege to be a part of the NIH and the laboratory animal research communities in my current role." A veterinarian by training, Dr. Garnett plans to continue working in some capacity in the field of laboratory animal research. The NIH has not announced plans for a new OLAW director.

*Source: Email from Nelson Garnett, 30 April, 2004 and 7 July, 2004; OLAW ([http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/olaw/newsarchive\\_2000.htm#20000330](http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/olaw/newsarchive_2000.htm#20000330))*

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### **3. University of Texas Gives Up Live Beagle Patent**

The University of Texas (UT) announced in May that they would give up all rights to a patent on live beagles with a pulmonary fungal infection, following a challenge by the American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS) and the PatentWatch Project of the International Center for Technology Assessment. AAVS and PatentWatch had filed a Request for Reexamination with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in February on the grounds that "animals should not be patented like inanimate objects, and... [UT's patent] has not fulfilled the nonobvious requirement of the USPTO." UT's decision came after the USPTO agreed to re-examine the patent.

The steps covered under the patent included methods of obtaining healthy beagles, causing immunosuppression through steroid injection and radiation exposure, and then infecting them with a specific mold species. UT researchers developed this method in order to mimic weakened human immune systems caused by diseases such as HIV and cancer.

AAVS President Sue Leary said, "This is a tremendous victory not just for the beagle dogs but for the 499 other animals who have been patented in the US. The University took the only morally defensible action it could in the face of our challenge. It got the message that animals are not machines, articles of manufacture or inventors' compositions of matter."

*Sources: AAVS Press Releases, May 27, 2004 and May 20, 2004*

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### **4. The Netherlands Releases Animal Research Statistics for 2002**

According to recently released statistics from The Netherlands, 640,303 animals were used in experiments in 2002, of which 35.3% experienced moderate to very severe discomfort. Total animal use was up 1.6% over 2001 but down 2.8% from 2000. Of the 2002 total, 37.3%

experienced minor discomfort, 27.4% experienced minor/moderate discomfort, 20.2% experienced moderate discomfort, 9% experienced moderate/severe discomfort, 5.9% experienced severe discomfort and 0.2%, or 1,639 animals, experienced very severe discomfort. Animal use fell primarily into the categories of biological studies of a fundamental nature (52.6%) and discovery, development, and quality control of products or appliances for human and veterinary medicine (38.7%). Other use categories included protection of man animals and their environment (6.8%), education and training (1.7%), and diagnosis (0.1%).

*Source: The Netherlands Centre for Alternatives to Animal Use Newsletter, No. 16, March 2004, Page 9*

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## 5. UK Poised to Use Millions of Animals to Test Chemicals

In an effort to comply with a tough new European Union (EU) program, the United Kingdom (UK) is slated to begin testing and re-testing thousands of chemicals. The program, called the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH), is being implemented to standardize toxicity information on 30,000 chemicals in commerce. Several million animals are likely to be used to assess 24,000 of the chemicals, while the number of animals needed for the remaining 6,000 chemicals is still unclear.

Bob Spink, a member of the UK's parliamentary select committee for science and technology, has been an outspoken critic of the plan. "We're going to see a few million animals tested for absolutely no point. A lot of these tests have already been done and the only problem is that the results are not in the right format. We've been living with many of these chemicals for a long time and know how they react so re-testing is not needed," he stated. Spink advocates using alternatives whenever possible, including *in vitro* tests (the use of cells rather than live animals) and computer simulations. Other REACH critics maintain that toxicity information on many of the chemicals has already been generated but has not been made public by private companies. Critics also maintain that even some publicly available data may be ignored because it was gathered under various country-specific laws and could be deemed incompatible with the new European-wide standards. REACH testing in the UK and throughout the EU could begin as early as 2006.

*Source: This is London, April 5, 2004*

*(<http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/articles/10087189>); Sunday Telegraph, March 7, 2004*

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**Animal Research News & Analysis** is an electronic newsletter that provides 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. Any questions, comments or email address changes should be directed to [ari@hsus.org](mailto:ari@hsus.org). To unsubscribe, please send an e-mail request to [ari@hsus.org](mailto: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](http://www.hsus.org/ace/712).

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