

ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



U.S. Chimpanzee Breeding Moratorium Extended to 2007

The U.S. National Advisory Research Resources Council (NARRC) recently decided to extend the current moratorium on breeding of federally-supported or "owned" chimpanzees until the end of 2007. The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a division of National Institutes of Health (NIH) and advised by NARRC, is charged with the oversight of federally-supported and owned chimpanzees currently being used or held for biomedical research, the eight National Primate Research Centers, and the national chimpanzee sanctuary system. The moratorium decision, which affects the approximately 850 chimps supported or owned by NIH and housed at six facilities throughout the US, was based on the need for additional assessment of the current chimpanzee colony and research needs, the high costs associated with housing and caring for chimpanzees, as well as a decreasing demand for chimps in research, which from resulted from their poor suitability for HIV research.

Chimpanzees are the only animals used in research in the United States who are retired and financially supported by the federal government once researchers determine that they are no longer "needed" for research or testing. Legislation creating a sanctuary system for retired chimpanzees was passed in 2000, and implementation and management of the sanctuary system is overseen by the NCRR.

While extending the breeding moratorium is a step in the right direction, The HSUS seeks a permanent halt to the breeding and use of chimpanzees in research

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Noteworthy...

The Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing will hold a conference on Developmental Neurotoxicity Testing (DNT) on March 13-15, 2006, in Reston, Virginia. The meeting is part of a long-term program aimed at identifying methods for DNT that meet government requirements, enhance

and testing.

**Sources: [National Council for Research Resources](#);
[The HSUS](#)**



University of California Pays \$92,500 in Animal Welfare Violation Settlement

The University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), charged with 75 violations of the Animal Welfare Act and facing legal proceedings, agreed to settle the case brought against it by the U.S. Department of Agriculture by paying a \$92,500 fine. This sum, the fourth largest fine ever paid to settle Animal Welfare Act violations, was not the first that the UCSF paid for animal welfare violations. Five years ago, the university paid \$2,000 for depriving a monkey of water in a behavior experiment. The more recent charges, all of which were denied by the university, occurred between 2001 and 2003 and included housing animals in dirty cages, failing to provide adequate veterinary care, and not providing adequate anesthesia during surgery. The USDA filed an amended complaint against the university in July, 2005, which included 15 new alleged violations from April of this year.

UCSF is the fourth-largest recipient of biomedical research grants from the National Institutes of Health, having receiving \$438 million in 2004 alone. By comparison, the size of the recent settlement, less than \$100,000, inevitably raises the question of whether the fine is large enough to compel positive changes or will simply be regarded as a cost of doing business. If the fine itself is a slap on the wrist, perhaps the bad press resulting from the USDA proceedings will get the attention of senior administrators at UCSF.

**Source: [San Francisco Bay Guardian, October 4](#);
[San Francisco Gate, September 28](#)**

decision making, and promote humane science.

The Federation of European Toxicologists and European Societies of Toxicology (EUROTOX), and Humane Society International, in conjunction with Proctor & Gamble presented the 2005 Animal Welfare and Alternatives Award. Prof. Vera Rogiers received the Alternatives Award; Prof. Jann Hau received the Welfare Award; Friends of Animals Association, Turkey, and ROLDA, Romania, received the Local Community Initiative Award. For more information, [click here](#).





New Toxicology Test Could Spare Millions of Fish

The field of ecotoxicology assesses the harmful effects that man-made chemicals may pose to the environment. These effects are assessed, in part, in tests using algae (aquatic plants), daphnia (tiny crustaceans), and fish. Up to now, fish have shared this testing burden equally with algae and daphnia. However, scientists at the European Commission and the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca have come up with an alternative testing strategy. After collecting test results on new chemicals since 1981, Commission's Joint Research Centre observed that fish are rarely more sensitive than algae and daphnia. The new strategy entails initial testing with algae and daphnia, with fish being tested only at the lowest level of concentration at which toxic effects are observed in the other two species. If the fish survive, no further testing is required.

Analysis of the results during the last 12 months suggests that more than half the fish currently used for testing could be spared by the new strategy, which has been endorsed as valid by the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Commission's European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM). Regulatory acceptance is pending. The alternative represents a potentially significant contribution to reducing animal testing in Europe.

Source: [Europa, Sept. 30, 2005](#)



Kenya Beckons Beleaguered Primate Researchers

In recent years, scientists experimenting on primates and other animals have come under increasing scrutiny by animal rights activists in Europe and the United States, and some have been the targets of harassment campaigns. The director of the Institute of Primate Research in Nairobi, Kenya, recently indicated he would welcome researchers who wish to conduct their work in his country—home to many species of primates—in order to avoid the conflict they now face in their own countries. Institute director Emmanuel Wango is already planning to increase the price of using a baboon in any study from the equivalent of \$445 to about \$810. Even so, that price would be a fraction of what a baboon in the U.S. costs, which is around \$2,025. Scientists have found that the cost of doing research in Kenya is about 10 times cheaper than in other countries. "Although we have for a long time collaborated with scientists from the West, the problems they are facing back home are making them consider working with us," stated Wango.

Jean Gilchrist, Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals, stated, "We are not happy with this proposal. If animal experiments are to be done, and we believe that alternatives should be used when possible, then these should be very, very strictly

controlled." Concern has been voiced about researchers being able to circumvent their own countries' ethical standards by operating in a different country. The possible capture of wild primates for research purposes also poses worries about the impact this could have on local populations..

Source: [The Scotsman](#); [Daily Nation, October 6](#)



University of Nevada, Reno Cited Again for Animal Welfare Violations

The University of Nevada at Reno (UNR) is back in the news several months after paying a \$11,400 fine for 46 violations of the Animal Welfare Act. A recent surprise inspection by the US. Department of Agriculture (USDA) turned up another 10 violations. USDA inspectors visiting the facility on October 5th gave UNR two days to correct nine of the most recent violations, and until January 7 to correct the remaining deficiency. The violations included inadequate veterinary care, sanitation problems in animal housing, and deficiencies related to the university's animal care committee and animal research protocols.

The earlier violations, which occurred during 2004 and resulted in a May, 2005 fine, included repeated failure to provide 10 research pigs with adequate water, improper housing of the same pigs, poor sanitation of animal care facilities, lack of veterinary care, improper oversight of research activities, failing to investigate complaints of animal neglect, and failing to properly train farm employees.

Source: [Reno Gazette-Journal, October 12](#)

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