

# ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**



## **ICCVAM To Pursue Alternatives to LD50 Testing of Botox®-type Products**

The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) has announced its intention to pursue alternatives to the LD50 Test for assessing the potency of botulinum toxin-based products, such as BOTOX® Cosmetic, the popular anti-wrinkle treatment. ICCVAM and its scientific advisory committee consider the initial step in this effort—an expert workshop to assess the current status of alternative methods—to be a high priority for the agency. ICCVAM, through its administrative arm, issued a public announcement requesting information on activities aimed at developing or validating methods related to reduction, refinement, and/or replacement alternatives for botox testing, as well as submission of data from LD50 botulism toxicity tests. ICCVAM is also requesting public comments on the need and/or priority of a workshop on alternative methods, and nominations of scientific experts who might participate in such a workshop.

ICCVAM's announcement was in response to an October 2005 proposal from The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) "nominating" potency testing of Botulinum toxin-based products as an ICCVAM priority. The nomination detailed possible test alternatives that would replace, reduce, and refine the current LD50 Test. The latter causes a slow and distressful death (through suffocation) to the test subjects (mice). "The HSUS applauds ICCVAM for moving this issue forward and urges Botox manufacturer Allergan, Inc. to work with ICCVAM to end a particularly objectionable form of

## **January 2006**

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### **Noteworthy...**

The January 2006 issue of Scientific American features an article on the benefits—to humans and animals--of using alternatives to animals in toxicity testing. The article, "Protecting More Than Animals," discusses alternative methods from the perspective of the 3R of replacement, reduction, and

animal testing," according to HSUS representative Martin Stephens

**Sources: [Federal Register; Volume 71, No. 18; January 27, 2006](#); ; [The HSUS Test Nomination to ICCVAM](#); [The HSUS-Press Release, January 2006](#)**



## **New Jersey Becomes Dissection Choice State**

In January, 2006, New Jersey enacted legislation that allows public school students to choose

alternatives to traditional animal dissection and experiments using animals in the classroom. Students may refuse to "dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy" animals as part of their educational instruction. The law requires schools to (i) notify students of their right to decline involvement in these activities and (ii) provide an alternative education project, such as computer programs, video tapes, models, or films, to students who declare their intent to opt out of these exercises. The law specifically states that "A pupil shall not be discriminated against, in grading or in any other manner, based upon a decision to exercise the rights afforded pursuant to this act." New Jersey joins 13 other U.S. states that currently have laws or policies allowing students to participate in dissection alternatives.

"The Humane Society of the United States applauds the New Jersey Legislature and Governor Codey for making it possible for all hardworking students to achieve top grades in science class without having to dissect or harm animals," said Barbara Dyer, program coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of The HSUS. The HSUS opposes the use of animals in elementary or high school lessons, experiments, science fair competitions or other projects that, directly or indirectly, cause death, pain, or distress to animals. The HSUS believes the focus of biology study should be on animals as living creatures, emphasizing their behavior, life history patterns and relationships with their environment. Through its Humane Education Loan Program (HELP), The HSUS loans humane alternative materials to

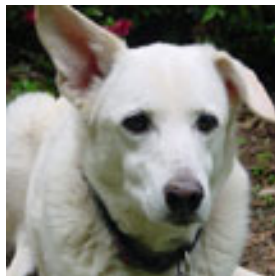
refinement. View the article's introduction online [click here](#).

The John Hopkins Center for Alternative Research will hold a conference on Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT) on March 13-15th in Reston, VA. The meeting is part of a long term program aimed at identifying methods for DNT that meet government requirements, enhance decision making, and promote humane science. [Click here](#) for more information.

The National Center for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) has awarded Dr. Siouxsie Wiles, of Imperial College London, its inaugural Replacement, Refinement, and Reduction Prize. "The aim was to give a prize for work that replaced, refined or reduced the use of animals in research to highlight the importance of these principles to both the public and other scientists." Wiles was awarded 10,000 GBP prize for her research on how potentially lethal strains of E. coli bacteria affect the body. She significantly reduced the number of mice used in the research. [Click here](#) for more information.

middle, high school and college students and teachers seeking alternatives.

**Source:** [State of New Jersey 211th Legislature, Assembly, No. 233](#); The HSUS Press Release, January 2006 & [web site](#)



## Documentary “Dealing Dogs” to Air in February

A documentary on the shocking mistreatment of dogs at an animal dealer’s facility will air on the HBO television station February 21st, 23rd, and 27th. Dealing Dogs focuses on Martin Creek Kennel of Little Rock, Arkansas, which was owned by Chester C. Baird, who was licensed to sell dogs to research facilities. The film follows an undercover investigator employed as a kennel worker but who was actually a member of the animal protection group Last Chance for Animals (LCA), which used the footage to expose the beating, shooting, malnourishment, and poor living conditions of the dogs at the kennel.

As a Class B dealer, Baird, his wife, and their daughters, had been licensed to sell animals to veterinary schools and research facilities. (A Class B licensee is a dealer whose business involves the purchase and/or resale of any animal.) The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the agency responsible for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), requires dealers, and research facilities, to keep accurate documentation to ensure that animals obtained through Class B dealers are procured legally and are not stolen pets. LCA presented its evidence against Baird to the USDA, which, in January 2005, permanently revoked Baird’s Class B license and levied a \$262,700 fine for mistreating animals, acquiring animals from “random-source” dealers, and failing to keep accurate records (including regarding the origin of the animals). The fine is the largest civil penalty ever assessed and paid in an AWA case; persons with revoked AWA licenses do not qualify for future licensing.

**Source:** [USDA](#); [The HSUS](#); [Last Chance for Animals](#)



## Austria Enacts Ban on Ape Research

Effective January 2006, Austria has implemented legislation that prohibits any research on non-human apes that is not in the interest of the apes themselves. Austria has not used apes in research for several years, as the country's research community retired their last chimpanzees used for research in 2002. However, this retirement presented the opportunity to discuss a research ban covering all non-human apes, including not just chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, and orangutans, but also 8 species of gibbons. With its new ban, Austria joins New Zealand, The Netherlands, and Sweden, which have legislation and/or regulations that prohibit great ape research, and the United Kingdom, which has a policy of not granting licenses for such research. Japan has taken steps to ban invasive research on great apes, and Spain is currently considering a proposal to grant legal protection of great apes from "slavery, torture, death, and extinction."

The United States is one of the few remaining countries to allow biomedical research and testing on great apes. In practice, chimpanzees are the only great ape currently used in U. S. research. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has launched a campaign to end biomedical research and testing on chimpanzees. In 2000, the U.S. enacted legislation, supported by The HSUS, which designated a national sanctuary system for chimpanzees considered to be retired from research by the research community.

**Source: [eubusiness.com](http://eubusiness.com) ; [HSUS Pain & Distress Report, Volume 6, Issue 2](#), Ethological Digest December 22, 2005**

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## CLARIFICATION: NIH Releases Second Report on UNC Chapel Hill

In October 2005, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a report on its second investigation of the University of North Carolina (UNC)-Chapel Hill. The follow-up investigation was in response to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' (PETA) second undercover investigation of the university. The NIH report confirms that conditions at UNC were not in compliance with the government policy and guidance. Ineffective leadership, communication, and record keeping in UNC-Chapel Hill's animal research facilities reportedly led to missed veterinary treatments for animals and delays in euthanasia. The report also cited failures to provide adequate food, water, and sanitary conditions, as well as failures to follow UNC's tumor policy and to provide post-operative analgesic treatments. Also noted were animal deaths caused by premature weaning, and cage overcrowding resulting from a poor understanding of the rodent separation policy.

OLAW reports that "UNC was notified of the issues identified and given reasonable opportunity to take corrective action. Although OLAW pursued many specific concerns... OLAW's efforts were primarily focused on the root causes of problems and corrections at the programmatic level. These corrective actions were evaluated and monitored over the

course of a year and found to be appropriate to correct the deficiencies." PETA has called upon the NIH to impose sanctions on UNC given that the problems cited in the recent NIH report are similar to ones cited in NIH's 2004 report, which followed its initial investigation of UNC-Chapel Hill

**Source: NIH-Report of Investigation of Allegations of Noncompliance with the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, October 25, 2005; [PETA- Excerpts of Report](#); [PETA](#)**

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