

ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



HSUS Runs Ad in New York Times

On October 25, 2006, The Humane Society of the United States ran a full page ad in the *New York Times* under the title "Shouldn't Science Do Better?" The ad noted that 40 years had passed since passage of the Animal Welfare Act and that much remained to be done to address public concerns about the use of animals in research, testing, and education. The ad featured four issues, each with an accompanying photograph: the use of pet dogs and cats in research, as sold by class b dealers; the use of chimpanzees in research, the use of animals in product testing, as well as compulsory dissection in schools. The ad asked readers to take action on each of these issues by visiting the HSUS web page www.hsus.org/animalresearch, which featured a facsimile of the ad, with "take action" icons associated with each issue.

Concerned readers who visited the web-based version of the ad could take action by asking relevant government officials via email to stop funding research on chimpanzees or to develop a comprehensive program of research on alternatives to animal use in product testing. Readers could also contact their legislators via email to oppose the sale of pets to research by supporting the Pet Safety and Protection Act, while the dissection "action" asked students and teachers to take a pledge to use non-animal alternatives to dissection.

The New York Times is considered the newspaper of record in the United States. Shortly after the ad ran, thousands of people had visited the website and taken action.

October 2006

In this issue...

[HSUS Runs Ad in New York Times...](#)

[Chimpanzee Elder Retires...](#)

[Cloning Company Closes...](#)

[Court Takes Control of Primarily Primates...](#)

Noteworthy...

Proctor & Gamble, in conjunction with the Humane Society of the United States, is accepting applications for the *2007 Animal Welfare and Alternatives Award*. Applications are sought for awards in three categories: Alternatives, Welfare, and Local Community Initiative. Award prizes are U.S. \$25,000 per award. Applications are due January 17, 2007. For applications and details click [here](#).

InterNICHE is accepting

Sources: [The Humane Society of the United States](#)



Chimpanzee Elder Retires

A chimpanzee who spent an estimated 50 years confined in U.S. laboratories was recently released from the New Iberia Research Center to Chimp Haven, a retirement facility in Louisiana for chimps formerly used in research. At age 54, Gwen was the oldest chimpanzee in a US lab, as far as is known. Her release follows a campaign by Project R & R: Release & Restitution (for chimpanzees in US laboratories) to retire the oldest chimpanzees currently being held in research laboratories, for a total of 25 chimpanzees, over the age of 46 years. Project R & R had encouraged members of the public to write to the laboratories holding these individuals requesting their retirement. It has since been found that three of the 25 chimpanzees have died. The average life span for chimpanzees in the wild is 53 years, while chimpanzees in captivity have been known to live until 60 years of age.

The PBS television network recently presented a documentary in its Nature series that featured the lives and personalities of chimpanzees retired from research. The program kicked off Nature's 25th anniversary and aired November 5th, 2006.

Source: [Chimp Haven](#); [Star Telegram](#); [Project R&R](#); [Project R & R Poll](#) ; [PBS.org](#)

applications for the *2006 Humane Education Award* for replacement of harmful animal use in biological science, medical and veterinary medical education. The award is a grant for 20,000 Euro (or 25,000 U.S. dollars) to be split between qualifying applicants. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2007. For more information and application [click here](#).





Cloning Company Closes

Genetic Savings & Clone, a pet cloning company, ceased its operations as a consequence of limited demand for its "products"--cloned cats. The California-based company had been offering cloned cats for a \$50,000 price tag since opening in 2004. In October, the company sent letters to its clients explaining that it was not accepting new orders because it was "unable to develop technology to the point that cloning pets is commercially viable." In all, Genetic Saving & Clone was responsible for five cloned cats; only were sold to paying customers—people who wanted a cloned version of their cat.

Animal protection organizations oppose pet cloning as irresponsible given that there are thousands of homeless animals in shelters awaiting adoption. The current pet overpopulation problem in the United States costs millions of animals their lives and millions in tax dollars each year. Moreover, animal cloning is still experimental and, in various species, has been associated with high in utero failure rates, poor post-natal survival, or both. "For every successful clone, how many such procedures fail, with the animals dying prematurely, having physical abnormalities, or facing pain and suffering?" asked Wayne Pacelle, CEO of The Humane Society of the United States. He added, "It's no surprise the demand for cloned pets is basically non-existent, and we're very pleased that Genetic Savings & Clone's attempt to run a cloning pet store was a spectacular flop."

Source: [Red Herring](#); Associated Press, Oct. 11, 2006



Court Takes Control of Primarily Primates

On October 13, the Texas Attorney General's Office took control of Primarily Primates, Inc, a sanctuary which holds a variety of animals including several chimpanzees transferred from Ohio State University earlier this year. A spokesman for the Attorney General's Office stated that there is evidence of "health and hygiene issues" as well as alleged mismanagement of money donated to the facility. Spokespersons representing Primarily Primates are disputing such claims and disagree with the seizure of the sanctuary. Former employees of the sanctuary have testified that the takeover itself has stressed the animals.

For now, a judge in Austin has given temporary care of the animals to Lee Theisen-Watt, a wildlife rehabilitator, who has court permission to transfer the animals. Theisen-Watt has said she plans to relocate 40 chimpanzees and monkeys in the near future.

Source: [Houston Chronicle](#), October 19, 2006; [HelpTexasChimps.org](#)

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