

# ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**



## EU Adopts REACH Regulations

In December, 2006, after years of intense lobbying and negotiation by interested parties, the European Union enacted legislation calling for a massive new chemical testing program that threatens to dramatically increase the number of animals used in European laboratories. The Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (or REACH) is intended to generate standardized testing data on chemicals that are considered "high risk" for causing hazardous effects on human and animal health and the environment. Altogether, 30,000 new and existing chemicals are slated to be tested over the next 11 years, beginning in April 2007.

REACH includes a number of provisions intended to lessen its impact on animal use. Several provisions aim to prevent unnecessary duplication of testing, including calls for data sharing among manufacturers and for testing plans to be vetted by the authorities prior to being implemented. Other provisions limit the most animal-intensive testing to chemicals manufactured in high volumes.

Notwithstanding these and other provisions, REACH is seen by animal protection groups in Europe and elsewhere as a blow to worldwide efforts to reduce animal testing. The silver lining to this otherwise bleak situation is that the program is spurring efforts to develop alternatives to animal testing methods. The EU's European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) is now spending tens of millions of Euros to develop non-animal testing methods and testing strategies that limit animal use. And the EU has partnered with several industries to foster progress on

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### Noteworthy...

The 6th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences will be held August 21-25, 2007 in Tokyo, Japan. These congresses provide the major international venue for exchange of scientific and policy information on replacements, reductions, and refinements of the use of animals in research, testing, and education. Those interested in giving presentations should submit abstracts by March 31,

alternatives.

**Sources:** [Europa](#); [Cordis](#); [European Commission Press Release](#)



## Pigs are Victims in Military Trauma Training

A recent *New York Times* article has reignited the controversy over the United States Department of

Defense's long-standing practice of using animals in military experiments and training exercises. The November 2nd article featured a Navy medic recounting his participation in a training course in which anesthetized pigs were used as surrogate trauma victims. According to the medic interviewed in the article, a pig was "shot in the face with a 9-millimeter pistol, and then six times with an AK-47 and then twice with a 12-gauge shotgun. And then he was set on fire."

Many outraged members of the public contacted The HSUS over the treatment of these pigs. In response, The HSUS has written to the newly appointed U.S. Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, and key members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, urging the DOD and Congress to end this inhumane training.

The HSUS encourages the military to take full advantage of available alternatives, including sophisticated medical simulators of the human body that have many advantages over using animals. Trauma Man™, one of the available alternatives, is a simulator of the human body used for surgical training that includes life-like tissue structures and bodily fluids (for more information, see <http://www.simulab.com/tramasurgery.htm>).

**Source:** [New York Times](#); [HSUS](#)

2007. For details see the [announcement](#).

A federal appeals court has re-instated a lawsuit filed against the U.S. Department of Agriculture over the agency's inaction on its own draft policy promoting the psychological well-being of non-human primates. The suit was filed in 2003 by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Animal Welfare Institute and three individuals. The complaint alleged the agency's decision not to finalize the policy was "arbitrary and capricious" and violated the federal Animal Welfare Act of 1985. A lower court had earlier dismissed the lawsuit. For more information see the [article](#).





## HSUS Places Chimpanzee Ad in *New York Times*

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) ran a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* on December 8, 2006, under the title "How Could We?" The ad featured a large photo of a young chimpanzee in a laboratory cage. The text called attention to the plight of chimpanzees in U.S. labs and efforts to end harmful experimentation on them. Concerned readers were directed to The HSUS website, where they were given the opportunity to write a letter to the U.S. government, asking that funding for biomedical research and testing on chimpanzees be discontinued. The ad was part of The HSUS' Chimps Deserve Better Campaign, which aims to end biomedical research and testing on chimpanzees.

Approximately 1,300 chimpanzees currently live in nine biomedical research and testing laboratories around the United States. Despite extensive knowledge of their rich social and emotional lives and their ineffectiveness as models for human diseases such as HIV/AIDS, chimpanzees continue to be subjected to painful and invasive experiments—some individuals for over 40 years now.

The ad was the second full-page ad that The HSUS has run in recent months in the *New York Times*, which is considered the newspaper of record in the United States. An ad on October 25 addressed a number of animal research-related issues.

**Source:** [HSUS](#)



## *Nature* Addresses the Animal Research Controversy

The animal research controversy was featured in the December 13th issue of *Nature*, an international scientific journal that publishes news and technical articles. The multi-article coverage of animal research addresses a variety of topics, including ethical considerations, the varying opinions of scientists, the role of veterinarians in the research lab, regulations and welfare considerations in the outsourcing of primate research, and the challenges of integrating the results of animal research into human clinical studies.

These same articles are reproduced on *Nature's* website, which also presents several interactive features on the subject (available only to journal subscribers). For example, the What Do You Think section asks readers to voice their opinions on the topics discussed in the articles and on animal research in general. The page also features a poll that allows scientists to anonymously voice their opinions about animal research.

According to *Nature*, "... a poll of *Nature* readers working in the biomedical sciences reveals [that] many scientists who work on animals have complex takes on the issue. But they are not often willing, or encouraged, to express these feelings. In some labs, at least,

scientists feel pressured to keep quiet about the grey areas of debate."

**Source:** [Nature](#)

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