

ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



Former Veterinarian Files Lawsuit

A former veterinarian and director of the Animal Resource Facility at the University of New Mexico (UNM) has filed a civil rights

lawsuit against the UNM and two of its professors over his forced resignation. Daniel Theele, who filed the lawsuit in March, 2007, alleges that he was forced to resign after reporting allegedly unapproved research on animals involving "extremely painful and distressful procedures."

According to the lawsuit, Theele learned about these procedures in 2004 and reported them to UNM's Oversight Committee on Animal Care and Use. This committee investigated and found that the research was in violation of University and federal policies; however, according to the suit the professors who performed the procedures were not sanctioned.

After the investigation, these professors allegedly began retaliating against Theele for reporting the incidents. The lawsuit says that the professors' actions interfered with Theele's ability to perform his job, and that the University interfered with his ability to speak out. The University and the professors have declined to comment, according to a UNM news source.

Sources: [Daily Lobo](#) ; [Federal Court Docket](#)

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In this issue...

[Former Veterinarian Files Lawsuit...](#)

[Pet Food Recall Led to Animal Testing...](#)

[Complex Chimpanzee Mind Discussed at Conference..](#)

[Drug Tests on Animals Unnecessary, Says BUAV Report...](#)

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Noteworthy...

Duke University School of Medicine has confirmed that the school will no longer use live pigs in a third year surgery class. This leaves



Pet Food Recall Led to Animal Testing

The recent massive pet food recall in the United States, associated with reports of many dogs and cats dying and thousands more becoming ill, drew attention to issues associated with pet food safety and testing. Several of the animals that were reported to have died were in fact animals who had been deliberately exposed to suspected tainted food in testing laboratories. Many members of the public were outraged by this testing and conveyed their concerns to the HSUS.

Avoiding contamination of pet foods is largely a matter of quality control of the process by which ingredients are selected and processed for pet food. There is some animal testing for nutritional quality and palatability. Yet other testing follows suspected outbreaks of adulterated pet food. While the practices for testing pet foods have improved quite substantially in the past twenty years, more improvements are still possible and desirable (for example, by using benign "in-home" testing).

Quality control and testing of pet food are sure to receive more attention now that these issues have been brought to the foreground by recent events.

Source: [MSNBC](#); [FDA](#)

only 13 medical schools, out of 125, that still use live animals in their curriculum, according to PCRM. [More>>](#)

Sinclair Research, a contract research lab in Missouri, will pay a \$33,000 civil penalty after the U.S. Department of Agriculture filed a complaint against the lab in October 2006. The complaint followed an undercover investigation by an animal rights group and revealed over 40 alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act. [More>>](#)

A University of Georgia study suggests that rats have the ability to reflect on what they know and don't know. This reportedly is the first demonstration showing that animals other than primates are capable of reflection on their own mental processes. [More>>](#)



Complex Chimpanzee Mind Discussed at Conference

The use of chimpanzees in biomedical research is declining worldwide, partly because of growing evidence of their extraordinary cognitive abilities and their corresponding vulnerability to the impoverished conditions of laboratory life. One venue for discussing these issues has been the "Understanding Chimpanzee" conferences, held every 10 years since 1987. These meetings provide an opportunity for chimpanzee experts, researchers, and the general public to convene and discuss the chimpanzees' complex mind and culture as well as their plight around the world.

This year's conference, titled "The Mind of the Chimpanzee," was held in Chicago and included talks from chimpanzee experts such as Drs. Jane Goodall (Jane Goodall Institute) and Dr. Frans de Waal (Yerkes Primate Research Center). Dr. Tetsuro Matsuzawa presented footage of chimpanzees performing amazing feats during cognitive studies at Kyoto University. Also shown were videos of chimpanzees who were able to count at lightning speed and match colors with corresponding symbols. One of the most impressive feats was one chimpanzee's ability to not only press randomly dispersed numbers on a screen in sequence, but to do so when the numbers were flashed only for a brief moment and then replaced by white squares. To see video of these chimps, go to http://www.pri.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ai/video/video_library/index.html. There, you will also find video of wild chimp behaviors such as nut-cracking, ant-fishing and algae-scooping, which were also discussed at the conference.

For information on The HSUS' Chimps Deserve Better campaign, which aims to end research on these intelligent individuals, please visit our website at www.chimpsdeservebetter.org.

Source: [HSUS](#); [Project R&R](#)



Drug Tests on Animals Unnecessary Says BUAV Report

A report conducted prepared by British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection indicates that 10 million pounds of tax payer money have been used in the last 10 years to test illegal drugs on animals. The report, *Creatures of Habit*, "shows UK universities have repeatedly won licenses from the Home Office to spend public money giving often lethal doses of crystal meth, cocaine, cannabis, speed and ecstasy to animals to test effects already well documented in human studies."

Examples of studies conducted at major UK universities include: giving cannabis to rats to see if it will increase hunger; administering lethal doses of methamphetamine along with exposure to loud music; combining isolation with doses of amphetamine (speed); and

giving rats cocaine along with electric shocks. In one experiment, 13 non-human primates were supposedly injected with MDMA (ecstasy). When six of these animals died or took ill, the results caused great alarm because of the implications to humans; however, it was later revealed that the primates had been injected with the wrong drug (methamphetamine).

According to BUAV, these tests are rarely cited by other researchers, begging the question of whether the tests are necessary or are just repetitive experiments that could be better studied through human volunteers and other scientific alternatives.

Source: [BUAV](#) ; [Creatures of Habit](#)

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