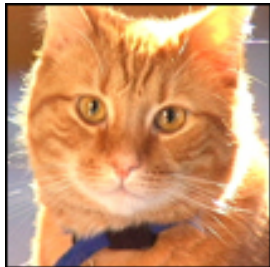


ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



USDA AGREES TO PROVIDE ONLINE REPORTS AFTER HSUS LAWSUIT

Following a lawsuit by the Humane Society of the United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on May 5 that the agency would resume posting annual reports of animal research facilities on its website, effective May 10. The announcement came three months after The HSUS filed a lawsuit against the USDA for hampering public access to research facility reports by removing them from its website in 2002, in violation of the 1996 Electronic Freedom of Information Act (e-FOIA). Every research facility subject to the Animal Welfare Act must file an annual report reflecting the species and numbers of animals used, broken down into pain and distress categories. Any listing of animals in the unrelieved pain and distress category must be accompanied by explanations of the procedure(s) involved and why pain and distress were unrelieved.

The HSUS sued the USDA after waiting up to four years for the agency to fill several FOIA requests for facility reports, which the organization regards as critical to tracking trends in animal use and animal pain and distress and to monitoring the USDA's enforcement of the minimal standards of the Animal Welfare Act. The HSUS has now received some of the information it requested and is encouraged by the Department of Justice's requirement that the USDA restore the annual reports to its website. "While we are pleased with the electronic availability of annual reports, we remain concerned with the amount of information that has been redacted from these reports," says Kathleen Conlee, director of program management for The

June 2005

In this issue...

[USDA Agrees To Provide Online Reports...](#)

[University of Nevada Pays Fine...](#)

[Chimpanzee Retirement...](#)

[Covance Accused of Animal Welfare Violations...](#)

[Fifth World Congress on Alternatives and Animals](#)

Noteworthy...

Audiotapes from the recent InterNICHE Conference held in Norway are now available online. The conference was the largest and most successful event to date focusing on alternatives in education. To listen to the conference, visit [InterNICHE](#).

The UK-based Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has developed a

HSUS's Animal Research Issues. "We consider this redacted information, which primarily relates to painful and distressful procedures that animals are subjected to, to be the most important information in these reports. We are working to resolve these issues with the Department of Justice."

Sources: [The HSUS](#)



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO PAYS FINE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE VIOLATIONS

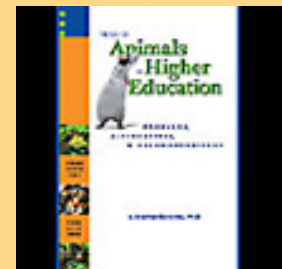
The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has concluded that the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), mistreated pigs being used in research, and the university has agreed to pay a \$11,400 fine to settle the case. The USDA cited 46 violations between May 2004 and March 2005 that include repeated failure to provide 10 pigs with adequate water and housing, poor sanitation at the facility, lack of veterinary care, and failure to investigate complaints of animal neglect.

In a related development, UNR has dropped charges against the whistleblower who complained to the USDA about these conditions at UNR. Professor Hussein S. Hussein had claimed that university officials refused to answer his queries about the research pigs, so he hired an outside veterinarian to examine the animals. The USDA found that no action had been taken to correct substandard conditions. Following the USDA inspection of the pig facility, UNR charged Hussein with interfering with another professor's research animals and violating animal-use protocols by bringing in an "outside" veterinarian. Hussein took the University to court, alleging the school was retaliating against him for lodging a complaint with the USDA. The court ruled in Hussein's favor, after which UNR dropped its charges against him.

Source: [North Lake Tahoe Bonanza, May 4, 2005](#); [Capitol Hill Blue, May 30, 2005](#); [Reno-Gazette Journal, April 20, 2005](#)

resource book to assist lay members with their work within local Ethical Review Processes. The [workbook](#) has a wealth of information relevant to service on US-based Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

The National Toxicology Program cosponsored a workshop, *Developing Experimental Approaches for Evaluation of Toxicological Interactions of Nanoscale Materials*, with the University of Florida. The [workshop report](#) is now posted on the NTP website.





CHIMPANZEE SANCTUARY RECEIVES ITS FIRST RESIDENTS

A newly established retirement facility for chimpanzees formerly used in research received its first residents in April 2005—over 20 chimpanzees from across the country. The new facility, based in Shreveport, Louisiana, stems from the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection (CHIMP) Act of 2000. Under this legislation, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a contract to Chimp Haven, a non-profit organization, to oversee the chimpanzee sanctuary system, which is likely to expand beyond the Shreveport facility. The NIH, which has legal custody of many of the chimpanzees in research facilities, anticipates that a large proportion of the more than 1,300 chimps currently in research facilities will need to be retired in the near future.

In March, various organizations, including sanctuaries that care for chimpanzees formerly used in research, collaboratively submitted comments to the NIH in response to proposed "Standards of Care for Chimpanzees Held in the Federally Supported Chimpanzee Sanctuary System." These standards address every aspect of the care of the chimpanzees living within the sanctuary system, including training of personnel, socialization and behavioral needs, and personal/private space. The collaborative team suggested further refinements in each of these areas, and, to ensure the continued well-being of the retired chimps, stated that "any sanctuary...must prioritize the needs of the individuals over those of the institution."

Source: [Chimp Haven](#); [The HSUS](#)



COVANCE ACCUSED OF ANIMAL WELFARE ACT VIOLATIONS

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals recently announced the results of an undercover investigation at the Vienna, Virginia facility of Covance, Inc., a contract testing company. An undercover investigator worked from April 2004 until March 2005 as a technician in Covance's primate toxicology department. The investigator videotaped staff handling, restraining, and dosing monkeys in drug testing procedures in ways that PETA claims violate the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Specific allegations include punching, choking and taunting injured monkeys, failing to administer veterinary care to severely wounded monkeys, and failing to properly oversee lab workers. PETA submitted a 253-page complaint and videotape from its investigation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the agency responsible for enforcing the AWA.

Following the exposé, Covance announced it was suing PETA and the undercover investigator for committing fraud, conspiring to harm its business, and violating a nondisclosure agreement that the investigator signed when she began working at Covance.

"The images and findings of this investigation are very disturbing, but some of the procedures depicted are, unfortunately, not uncommon," says Kathleen Conlee of The Humane Society of the United States. "It is not only time for substantial changes in how research is conducted but also in employee culture within primate laboratories."

Source: [CNN, May 17, 2005](#); [Newsday.com, June 6, 2005](#)



FIFTH WORLD CONGRESS ON ALTERNATIVES AND ANIMALS

The 5th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences will be held August 21st thru 25th in Berlin, Germany. The World Congresses on Alternatives are the largest international conferences on alternatives to animal use in research, testing, and education. Held every three years, they bring together representatives of academia, industry, government, and animal protection to review progress and anticipate future developments on alternative methods, which include the 3 R's of replacement, reduction, and refinement. One of the highlights of this year's World Congress will be an opening lecture, "Ending Research on Non-human primates" by Jane Goodall, world renowned chimpanzee authority. The complete program of the conference is slated to be posted on the Congress' website in early June.

The Humane Society of the United States is proud to be a co-organizer and co-funder of the 5th World Congress. At the Congress, The HSUS will present the 2005 Russell and Burch award to a scientist who has made an outstanding contribution towards the advancement of alternative methods.

Source: [Fifth World Congress](#); [The HSUS](#)

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