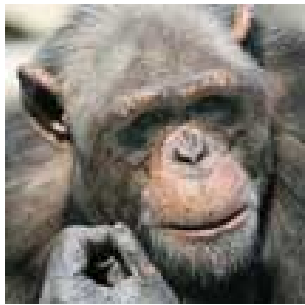


ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



End to Government Breeding of Research Chimpanzees

On May 22nd, the U.S. government announced that it will no longer fund the breeding of chimpanzees for research. The announcement came from the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), which decided to permanently end breeding—and the funding of breeding—of government-owned chimpanzees. A breeding moratorium has been in place for government owned chimpanzees since 1995. The latest move makes this moratorium permanent.

The NCRR indicated it will continue to honor its funding commitments for its existing chimpanzee population, approximately 650 chimpanzees currently in laboratories (of a total of approximately 1200 chimpanzees) and 90 in a federal sanctuary for those no longer "needed" in research.

The decision was supported by The HSUS and *Project R&R: Release & Restitution for Chimpanzees in U.S. Laboratories*, whose joint goal is to end the use of chimpanzees in biomedical research and testing and to retire chimpanzees currently in laboratories to appropriate sanctuaries. According to Kathleen Conlee, director of program management for animal research issues for The HSUS, "While this decision doesn't help chimpanzees already living in laboratories, it is a huge step towards a day when chimpanzees are no longer used in invasive biomedical research and testing. This will spare some chimpanzees a life of up to 60 years in a laboratory."

May 2007

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Sources: [The HSUS](#); [Reuters](#)



UNM Experiment Causes Controversy

The treatment of mice is at the center of a scandal that has hit the University of New Mexico (UNM). Highly invasive mouse experiments were conducted without approval from UNM's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), a violation of federal animal research guidelines. Moreover, the experiments were not conducted by a UNM researcher—the standard practice—but by a high school student. The experiments formed the basis of the student's science fair project, which was later disqualified from the Intel Science and Engineering Fair for violating animal welfare rules.

In the experiments, mice were forced to swim until nearly drowning, hung by their tails with adhesive tape, and given electrical shocks, all to measure hopelessness and depression. Also, pregnant mice were put into dirty cages that had been used by rats (who eat mice) to stress the pregnant mice; their offspring were then shocked to see if they reacted differently than offspring from mothers not put under stress.

Albuquerque Journal reported that UNM initially tried to hide information about the experiments when the newspaper asked for a copy of an IACUC report. The *Journal* later obtained an unedited copy of the report, which detailed information about the pain and suffering the animals experienced. David Harris, UNM President, said that he regrets the UNM lawyers' decision to redact information from the report. Also, New Mexico Governor and presidential candidate Bill Richardson issued a statement decrying the experiments.

Daniel Theele, a former UNM veterinarian who had reported animal welfare problems to UNM, is now suing the university, claiming he was forced to resign after making complaints about the experiments.

Source: [Boston.com](#), [AP](#); [Albuquerque Journal](#), May 24, 2007



Noteworthy...

The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) published a notice in the May 17, 2007 Federal Register requesting public comment, nomination of expert scientists, and submission of data related to the validation status of the Murine Local Lymph Node Assay. Data submissions will be accepted at any time; however submissions received by June 15, 2007 will be considered during the ICCVAM evaluation process. [More>>](#)

The European Commission has re-assessed the number of animals expected to be used in chemical safety testing under the REACH agreement. The Commission's Joint Research Committee (JRC) estimates that 8-9 million animals will be used in REACH testing. The calculations start from a baseline of 38 million animals, but this number is reduced by taking into account *in vitro* methods

and refinement through data sharing and use of existing data. The 8-9 million estimate is an increase from the 2004 estimate of 3-4 million animals, and is noted to represent only the "best case scenario." [More>>](#)



PepsiCo and Coca-Cola End Funding of Animal Testing

In separate statements just weeks apart, PepsiCo and Coca-Cola announced in May that they will no longer fund animal testing. The well-known soft-drink companies made their announcements following negotiations with PETA, which had petitioned the companies to end their funding of animal testing. The company tests reportedly involved rats, mice, and chimpanzees. One study funded by NutraSweet, involving a Coca-Cola scientist, entailed cutting open the face of chimpanzees to study nerve impulses used in taste perception, according to the New York Times. According to PETA, PepsiCo funded tests in which mice were either killed after the experiments, sometimes after suffering for months, or died prematurely.

PepsiCo, the parent company of brands such as Frito-Lay, Tropicana, Quaker Oats, and Gatorade, posted its policy on animal testing on its website: "PepsiCo does not do any animal testing and does not directly fund testing using animals. We will encourage our partners to use alternatives to animal testing and share this statement with organizations we believe to be involved in projects potentially involving animal research done on behalf of PepsiCo or with PepsiCo or PepsiCo Foundation funding." Coca-Cola has made a very similar statement in a letter to PETA. The Coca-Cola website goes on to say, "We encourage the use of alternative testing methods whenever and wherever possible and have financially supported research to develop these alternative methods."

PepsiCo and Coca-Cola join a growing number of companies with policies against conducting or supporting animal testing. After similar negotiations with PETA, POM Wonderful, Ocean Spray, and Welch's also recently announced that they would no longer fund tests on animals.

Source: [Reuters](#); [PepsiCo](#); [Coca Cola](#); [PETA](#); [The New York Times](#), May 31, 2007



Five *In Vitro* Tests Validated

On April 27, 2007, The European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods' (ECVAM) Scientific Advisory Committee announced the successful validation of five *in vitro* tests that are intended for assessing skin irritation, eye irritation and skin sensitization. The announcement comes at a time when the European government and industry are looking for alternative methods to use in assessing the toxicity of industrial chemicals and cosmetics, under new legislative mandates.

Two of the *in vitro* alternatives, EPISKIN® and EpiDerm®, are considered alternatives to the use of rabbits in the Draize skin irritancy test. EPISKIN® is considered a stand-alone replacement for the Draize skin irritation test, while EpiDerm® will be part of an integrated testing strategy intended to replace animals. These tests will be used to identify irritant and non-irritant chemicals. Another two of the five tests, the Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability test and the Isolated Chicken Eye test, will be used to replace animals for testing severe eye irritants in lieu of the Draize eye irritancy tests. However, animals may still be used to test for mild irritants. Both of these tests use tissues obtained from slaughter houses, which would normally be discarded. The fifth test is the "reduced" version of the Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA) for assessing the skin sensitization potential of chemicals. The original LLNA was validated by ECVAM in 2000 as a reduction method. The rLLNA will further reduce the number of animals used by 50%.

These new tests have the potential of sparing hundreds of thousands of animals per year. "This is great news for animal welfare and human safety," says Wendy Higgings of Dr. Hadwen Trust, a UK medical research charity that funds and promotes exclusively non-animal research techniques to replace animals. "The new tests will offer consumers better protection with a more human-relevant test and bring us one step closer to an animal-test free future," she added.

Source: [ECCVAM](#); [Dr. Hadwen Trust](#)

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