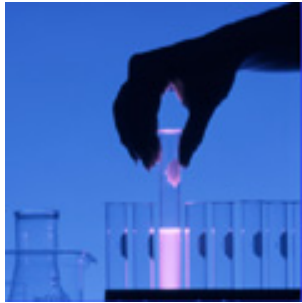


ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



NAS Looks at the Future of Toxicity Testing

The traditional approach to gauging the potentially harmful effects of chemicals on humans has been to expose animals to the chemicals and look for overt signs of toxicity, such as death. However, in the future, chemical toxicity should be assessed using a sophisticated array of non-animal approaches, resulting in a dramatic reduction in—if not the complete elimination of—animal-based testing, according to a new report issued by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

The report, *Toxicity Testing in the Twenty-first Century: A Vision and A Strategy*, focuses on toxicity pathways at the molecular level, emphasizing human-based cells and processes. Such pathways would be identified and monitored by harnessing the latest advances in systems biology, computational biology, bioinformatics, and epidemiology, as well as sophisticated tools such as micro-arrays that assess chemically induced changes.

"The NAS report calls for a paradigm shift that will enable toxicologists to better address chemical safety, while sparing millions of animals from the suffering and death associated with traditional chemical testing," said Martin Stephens, vice president of Animal Research Issues at The Humane Society of the United States, who served on the NAS committee that drafted the report.

The NAS report acknowledged that time and increased resources are necessary for proper implementation of the new plan, but that "over time, the need for

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In this issue...

[NAS Looks at the Future of Toxicity Testing](#)

[Air Canada Stops Transport of Dogs for Research](#)

[ICCVAM Receives Input on 5 Year Plan](#)

[New Mexico Appeals Court Upholds Dismissal of Charges](#)

[Procter and Gamble and The HSUS Present Alternatives Award](#)

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traditional animal testing could be greatly reduced, and possibly even eliminated someday."

Sources: [The HSUS](#); [The National Academies](#)



Air Canada Stops Transport of Dogs for Research

Air Canada announced on June 10th that the airline has stopped transporting dogs destined for the

research industry from Canada to Europe, following complaints by passengers who took a May 21st flight from Montreal to Paris. According to the *Montreal Gazette*, passengers on the flight were distressed by the "barking, crying, and whimpering" coming from the 70 to 100 beagles in the cargo hold of the plane. Passengers could hear the dogs during take-off and landing, and saw them being unloaded in Paris.

According to the *Gazette*, a spokesperson from Air Canada confirmed that the company's decision was prompted by passengers complaints, which was the first time the airline has received such criticism.

The company supplying the dogs, Marshall BioResources, has breeding facilities in New York and Europe. According to its website, the company offers its European customers "the option of domestically produced beagles as well as importation from New York." Marshall BioResources has already found another airline to ship the dogs overseas, according to the *Gazette*.

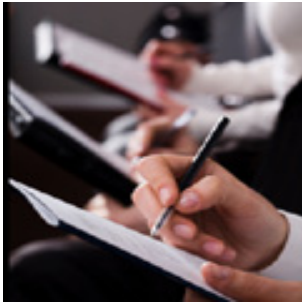
Source: [Montreal Gazette](#)

Noteworthy...

A 2007 Gallup Poll on moral issues reveals that 59% of Americans believe that medical testing on animals is morally acceptable. This is the lowest level of acceptability since this polling began in 2001. The overall level of acceptability has declined more or less steadily since 2001.

[more>>](#)

Seventy five chickens and four mice died of heat stress following a climate control system malfunction at Purdue University in May. The facility's heating unit was activated after an air line broke, raising the temperature to as high as 95 degrees in some rooms. An alarm system that would have alerted staff of power losses and malfunctions to the climate control system was in the process of being installed but was not expected to be fully functional until June. The university sent a report on the incident to the National Institutes of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare. [more>>](#)



ICCVAM Receives Input on 5 Year Plan

The draft five-year plan prepared by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM), the federal entity that coordinates the assessment of new and alternative testing methods relevant to government agencies, should be reformulated more along the lines of a strategic plan that focuses on a few high priorities and identifies concrete outcomes for each priority. This was the overarching message from a town hall meeting held on June 11th to hear from interested stakeholders, as well as from a working group of ICCVAM's Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM), which met the following day.

The five year plan was mandated by Congress to address "(1) research, development, translation, and validation of new and revised non-animal and other alternative assays for integration into federal agency testing programs and (2) identification of areas of high priority for new and revised non-animal and alternative assays for replacement, reduction, and refinement (less pain and distress) of animal tests." This congressional language was introduced by a coalition of animal welfare groups and industry stakeholders, including The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and The Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF). An HSUS representative served on the SACATM working group.

According to Sara Amundson of HSLF, who was the lead lobbyist on the appropriations language, "It is our observation that the successes in this area have been few and far between since the passage of the ICCVAM Authorization Act in 2000, while the European Union continues to lead the international way forward. ICCVAM must respond to stakeholders' concerns and outline a path for a new national scientific policy on alternatives."

Source: [ICCVAM](#)



New Mexico Appeals Court Upholds Dismissal of Charges

A New Mexico Court of Appeals has ruled that Charles River Laboratories, the contractor that runs the Alamogordo Primate Facility for the National Institutes of Health, cannot be prosecuted for animal cruelty. In 2005, District Attorney Scott Key brought misdemeanor charges against Charles River and the facility's director in connection with the death of two chimpanzees and near death of a third. The judge ruled in favor of Charles River but the case was appealed.

In a unanimous decision on June 12, the appeals court upheld the dismissal of all criminal charges based on an exemption in New Mexico anti-cruelty law that excludes the practice of veterinary medicine. The court said that this exemption covers Charles River as well as the facility's director. Attorney General Gary King indicated that he will ask the state

Supreme Court to review the ruling.

The chimpanzees who live at the Alamogordo Primate Facility had been transferred there from another facility, The Coulston Foundation, in 2000 as part of a settlement of Animal Welfare Act violations. In the process, the chimps were retired from studies that exposed them to diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis; consequently, the animals require specialized housing and care. In 2001 Charles River received a 10 year, \$42 million contract from the National Institutes of Health to manage the primate facility. Animal protection organizations would like to see these animals retired to a sanctuary that can handle their special needs.

Source: Alamogordo Daily News; Associated Press, 06/16/2007



Procter & Gamble and The HSUS Present Alternatives Award

In June, Procter & Gamble and The Humane Society of the United States presented the 2007 North American Alternatives Award to University of Washington Professor Elaine Faustman, in recognition of her contributions to the research and development of non-animal systems for evaluating the toxicity of environmental and occupationally relevant agents. Her work focuses on the development of new *in vitro* models for evaluating reproductive and developmental toxicity. The \$25,000 award will be used for a research project focused on further refinement of a new cell culture model that may lead to alternatives for animal tests.

"Procter & Gamble and The Humane Society of the United States believe that by working together on projects such as the Alternatives Award, we can enhance the likelihood of achieving our common objective of making animal testing for consumer products unnecessary," comments Dr. Andrew Rowan, executive vice president of operations for The HSUS.

Faustman is a Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences and Director of the Institute for Risk Analysis and Risk Communication at the University of Washington.

Source: [The HSUS](#); [Procter & Gamble](#)

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