

ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



U.S. House of Representatives Supports Strengthened Federal Protections

On July 27, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Farm Bill, which included an amendment that melds two stand-alone bills related to animal research. The Israel-Doyle amendment is named for its sponsors, Rep. Steve Israel (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Pa.). The amendment incorporates the Pet Safety and Protection Act, which prohibits the use in research of random source dogs and cats obtained from Class B dealers, as well as the Animal Welfare Animal Welfare Accountability Improvement Act, which bans the use of live animals in sales demonstrations of medical devices. The latter bill also increases penalties for research-related violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), as recommended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of the Inspector General, and calls for reinstatement of the USDA's annual reports on compliance with the AWA.

The Class B dealer provision is in response to a history of noncompliance with the AWA, culminating in a recent undercover investigation and HBO documentary of a Class B dealer in Arkansas. The sales demonstration provision is in response to a recent high-profile incident at the Cleveland Clinic, in which a staff member demonstrated a medical device on a live dog as a sales gimmick. The dog underwent surgery and was later killed.

The HSUS had lobbied hard for both bills and applauds the House's action on the Doyle/Israel amendment. The Farm Bill will next be considered by the U.S. Senate.

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EpiSkin® Approved for Skin Irritation Testing

A new test-tube method for assessing a chemical's potential to cause skin irritation has been approved by authorities in the

European Union, clearing the way to replacing the use of thousands of rabbits worldwide in the infamous Draize skin-irritancy test. The new method, EpiSkin®, was developed by cosmetics manufacturer L'Oreal in conjunction with IMEDEX, a French company that reconstructs human skin from tissue derived from human placentas, which are otherwise discarded.

EpiSkin, approved by the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods, performed better in some cases than animal tests when predicting human reaction to products, as animal and human skin can differ in their sensitivity to chemical irritants. In addition, EpiSkin can be adjusted to resemble different skin types, for example, skin that is older or tanned. This will allow companies to test products like sun block on a more representative sample of potential users.

The developers credit two pieces of European legislation for stimulating their search for alternatives to animal testing: both Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and the EU Cosmetics Directive. Emily McIvor, who has lobbied for the Cosmetics Directive and the animal-friendly provisions in REACH, and is now with Humane Society International, hailed the approval of EpiSkin as a breakthrough for animals as well as consumers, and sees the new test as one in a long line of non-animal methods that will eventually replace animals in safety testing.

Source: [Newscientist.com](#); [IMEDEX](#)



Noteworthy...

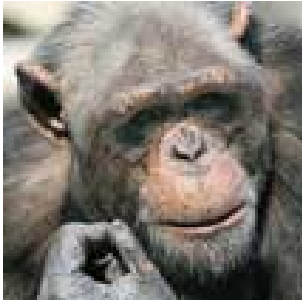
The 6th World Congress on Alternatives in the Life Sciences will be held August 21-25 in Tokyo, Japan. The conference aims to review progress made toward the 3Rs (Reduction, Refinement, Replacement) in education, research, and testing, and to develop an understanding of the status of alternatives and how they can be applied while advancing science. The Humane Society of the United States will present its 2007 Russell and Burch Award at the opening ceremony on August 21.

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The California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) recently published ethical guidelines on animal use and care. "Eight Principles of Animal Care and Use" seeks to balance the perceived need for animals in research and agriculture with an intent to minimize fear, suffering, pain, and distress. The CVMA sent the guidelines to its counterpart in all other U.S. states; so

far Arizona has adopted a close version of the guide.

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Declaration on Apes and Wild-Caught Primates Gets MEP Support

Written Declaration 40/2007, which calls for an end to the use of apes and wild-caught primates for research and testing in the European Union (EU), has been signed by 300 members of the European Parliament (MEPs). The declaration builds on a similar statement signed by participants at the 2005 Fifth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, which called for all stakeholders to make ending nonhuman primate research a priority. The current effort, promoted by Animal Defenders International and the National Antivivisection Society of the UK, has been supported by MEPs across party lines and from all countries in the EU.

The Declaration appeals to the European Commission, the Council of Ministers, and European Parliament to amend the EU law governing the protection of animals used for research and testing currently under revision to "make ending the use of apes and wild-caught monkeys in scientific experiments an urgent priority" and "establish a timetable for replacing the use of all primates in scientific experiments with alternatives."

If the declaration is signed by at least half of the 785 MEPs (i.e., 393 MEPs) by September 7, it will be sent by the President of the Parliament to the European Commission, the Council of Ministers and to the Member States for their consideration.

Source: [Animal Defenders](#); [Politics.co.uk](#); [HSUS](#)



Another High-Profile Failure of Animal Models

An article in *The Scientist* chronicles the most recent high-profile failure associated with using animals as models in human drug development. NSY-059, a neuroprotective drug intended for use in stroke patients, was successful in preclinical animal trials but failed when tested on humans. According to the article, this drug trial joins at least 12 others for similar drugs that succeeded in animals but failed when applied to humans.

NSY-059 was hailed as the first neuroprotective agent to be developed according to guidelines developed by Stroke Therapy Academic Industry Roundtable (STAIR), a committee that issued guidance to help standardize the development of preclinical and clinical stroke drugs. STAIR was convened in part because, unlike the standardization in human drug trials, there was no "best practice" standardization for testing drugs on

animals. Past studies have demonstrated that variable factors, such as the gender and age of the animal, level of enrichment, sympathy pains, and nutrition, can affect the outcome of animal tests. The recommendations such as testing on both sexes and on various ages of animals were believed to be the answer to the past failures in animal models. However, standardization of animal testing methods has not resolved the issue so far.

Source: *The Scientist*, July 1, 2007



Second Malfunction at Purdue Causes More Animal Deaths

A climate control malfunction at Purdue University in July led to the death of 45 research mice. In May, a similar incident left 75 chickens and four mice dead. A new alarm system had been installed; however it was not ready at the time of the earlier incident and was not yet activated at the time of the second incident. The latest deaths could cost the university approximately \$10,000, according to a Purdue spokesperson.

The recent malfunction, in the Life Science Animal Building, involved a valve that was stuck open all night, allowing incoming hot air to raise the temperature inside the room to 102 degrees, well above the recommended temperature of 64-79 degrees Fahrenheit. John Miller of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International estimates that temperature malfunctions that result in animal deaths occur in accredited institutions approximately six times per year but that in large institutions with multiple rooms this number could be as high as once a month.

Reacting to Miller's estimates, Martin Stephens, HSUS vice president for animal research issues, stated, "Animal deaths stemming from periodic mishaps should not be regarded as business as usual. This situation is completely unacceptable. Research facilities should invest in infrastructure upgrades that would prevent such mishaps."

Source: [Journal & Courier](#)

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