

ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



Experiments' Severity Limit Mischaracterized, Courts Rule

A London court has found that the British Home Secretary acted unlawfully by assigning a severity limit of "moderate" rather than "substantial" in its licensing of brain experiments on marmosets at Cambridge University.

The lawsuit, brought by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV), was based on video and documentary evidence collected by the BUAV during a ten month undercover investigation of a Cambridge neuroscience primate lab in 2000 and 2001.

Notwithstanding the official "moderate" suffering label, the investigation revealed that the experiments included highly invasive procedures, such as removing the top of marmoset's heads to induce strokes. The guidelines state that any procedure which "may lead to a major departure from the animals' usual state of health and of well-being" must be categorized as 'substantial,'" and therefore undergo much stricter assessments before they can be licensed.

Sources: [The BBC](#); [BUAV](#)

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Noteworthy...

Anita Roddick, the founder of The Body Shop and a pioneer in



Student Survey Targets Dissection

A recent survey initiated by Student's Animal Guardian Alliance, a project of the Animal Welfare Trust, in consultation with The Humane Society

of the United States (HSUS), found that 86% of students think they should be given the option to pursue their biology studies by using alternatives to animal dissection.

The survey, conducted in July 2007 by Teenage Research Unlimited, asked 20,000 11-18 year-olds about dissection. Other findings from the 4,187 respondents include:

- 79% have been asked to dissect an animal in the classroom
- 52% would prefer to use an interactive computer program to learn anatomy rather than dissect an animal
- 36% think that dissecting animals in classrooms is unethical
- 67% have not been given an alternative option

Currently, nine states (Florida, California, Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island, Illinois, Virginia, Oregon, and New Jersey) have laws that allow students in grades K-12 to choose an alternative that is not harmful to animals, without penalty. In most cases, parents and/or students must be notified of the choice prior to the exercise. Five other states (Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Mexico) have policies or resolutions that serve a similar purpose.

Source: [The HSUS](#)



The Chimpanzee Washoe Dies at Age 42

Washoe, a female chimpanzee who is believed to be the first non-human to learn American Sign Language, died of natural causes on October 30 at the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (CHCI) in Ellensburg, Washington. She had a vocabulary of about 250 words.

Born in Africa around 1965, Washoe was taken to the U.S. by the Air Force and used in space research.

animal-friendly business practices, died on September 11 at the age of 64. Roddick's commitment to ending animal testing extended to her chain of approximately 2,000 cosmetics stores, which sell only products that have not been tested on animals. [more>>](#)

Professor Bernard Rollin of Colorado State University, a leading scholar in animal ethics and animal consciousness, was awarded the American Veterinary Medical Association's Humane Award in July. Rollin was a principal author of the 1985 Animal Welfare Act amendments, which improved standards for laboratory animals, and developed the first courses in veterinary medical ethics and ethical issues in animal science. His latest book, *Science and Ethics*, includes chapters on animal research and various forms of biotechnology, such as xenotransplantation. [more>>](#)

She then lived with Drs. Allen and Beatrix Gardner of the University of Nevada, Reno, from 1966 to 1970. From 1970 to 1980 she lived at the University of Oklahoma where she was cared for by Roger Fouts, a graduate student of the Gardners, and his wife Deborah. In 1980 the Foutses founded CHCI at Central Washington University, which became the new home for Washoe and several other chimps. One of the chimps that lived with Washoe at CHCI was Dar, the son of Kitty, one of the three chimps living at the HSUS' Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, an animal sanctuary.

"Washoe's life story has made a deep and lasting impression on so many people," said Kathleen Conlee, director of program management in the animal research issues section of The HSUS. "She was an incredible individual who gave us a greater understanding of chimpanzees, their emotions and intelligence. She will be dearly missed but remains an inspiration to our Chimps Deserve Better campaign, which seeks to end the use of chimpanzees for invasive research and provide them with a better life in sanctuary."

Photo credit: Central Washington University

Source: [The New York Times](#); [CHCI](#)



University Research Labs Under Scrutiny

Several US-based universities have been in the spotlight recently over their treatment of research animals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported in October that The Yerkes National Primate Research Center, part of Emory University, was fined \$15,000 because of animal care problems linked to the death of a monkey. The USDA reported unsanitary conditions during a January inspection of Yerkes' Lawrenceville field station and a July inspection confirmed inadequate training and veterinary care at its Atlanta campus after a macaque died there from emphysema and an absence of gas in the lungs. The death was reportedly related to incorrectly assembled anesthesia equipment.

The University of California, San Francisco was hit with a lawsuit in July by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine and five California physicians, alleging that researchers mistreated monkeys, dogs and other animals and unlawfully used state funds for animal experiments that violate the federal Animal Welfare Act.

In July, a national research watchdog organization asked the USDA to launch legal proceedings against Vanderbilt University for violations of the Animal Welfare Act. In June the same group, Stop Animal Exploitation Now!, asked that the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care place Vanderbilt and Harvard Medical School on probation for incidents of alleged animal abuse and negligence. The group's requests are based on their assessment of publicly available government documents.

Source: [USA Today](#); [San Francisco Chronicle](#); [OpEdNews](#); [OpEdNews](#)



Netherlands Toxicogenomics Centre Invests in Animal Testing Alternatives

The Netherlands Toxicogenomics Centre (NTC) will invest 54 million euros in the development of alternatives to animal testing. The money, which includes a government subsidy of 25 million euros, will be targeted towards assessing the possible toxicity of chemical substances used for medicines and industrial production.

"In vitro testing in combination with genomics will contribute to the development of valuable alternatives for the present testing methods, which are largely dependent on animal testing," said a representative of science institute TNO, one of eight Dutch research institutes that work in the area of toxicology and genomics technologies and which constitute the NTC. The other institutes include: The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, RIKILT-Institute for Food Safety, Erasmus University Medical Center, Leiden University Medical Center, University of Leiden, Wageningen University and the University of Maastricht.

"This announcement represents a major contribution towards the international effort to modernize toxicity testing methods and phase out animal testing," observed Martin Stephens, HSUS vice president for animal research issues.

Source: [NIS News Bulletin](#)

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