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The *Pain & Distress Report* is available online at humanesociety.org/pain_distress_report.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

humanesociety.org

Pain & Distress Report

From the Pain & Distress Campaign of The Humane Society of the United States

Policies+Perspectives

U.S. Agencies Collaborate to Shift Toxicology Away from Animal Testing

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Chemical Genomics Center, the National Toxicology Program, and the Environmental Protection Agency have announced a new toxicity testing agreement expected to generate higher quality human data, expand the number of chemicals tested, and reduce time, money, and animals used. This effort will use the Chemical Genomics Center's automated robots to test toxicity on cells and isolated molecular targets in place of animal-based toxicity testing. For more information, go to genome.gov/

Pages/Newsroom/CurrentNewsReleases/SciencePolicyForumToxTestingCollins.pdf.

The agreement, in the form of a five-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) among the agencies, calls for sharing information and working together to more rapidly identify chemicals that might pose risks to humans, animals, and the environment. For more information on the MOU, go to www.niehs.nih.gov/news/releases/2008/docs/ntpncgepamou.pdf.

Noteworthy

UK Court Rules on Severity Assessments

A British appeals court ruled recently that the Home Office should assess future applications to conduct animal experimentation without regard for whether the agency has licensed experiments that caused even more suffering. The Home Office categorizes experiments according to potential animal suffering to determine if licenses should be granted. The Home Office had argued that a Cambridge University primate experiment should be labeled

“moderate” because experiments the agency had labeled “substantial” were more detrimental to animal welfare. The case arose after a British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) undercover investigation revealed that the “moderate” experiment induced brain damage in marmosets through removal of brain parts or injection of poison into the brain. Many of the animals died or were euthanized to end their suffering.

New AAALAC Director

Christian E. Newcomer, V.M.D., has been appointed executive director of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) International, where he will oversee the organization's offices,

provide oversight on AAALAC International's accreditation, program status evaluation, and education and outreach programs, and serve as international spokesperson.

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Gallup Poll on Animal Research and Testing

Gallup recently polled 1,017 American adults about the moral acceptability of social issues including product testing and medical research on animals (Gallup Poll News Service, May 15, 2008). Overall, 39% of those polled supported (either strongly or somewhat) a ban on animal product testing, while 59% opposed a ban either somewhat or strongly. Similarly, 35% of those polled supported a ban on medical research on

animals, while 64% opposed such a ban. In general, 56% of respondents found medical testing on animals to be morally acceptable, down 9% since 2001. Overall, 72% of respondents felt animals deserve some protection from harm and exploitation—up 1% since 2003—while one quarter of all respondents (the same as 2003) said animals deserve to be free from harm and exploitation—just like people.

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Dr. Newcomer comes to AAALAC International from The Johns Hopkins University, where he served as associate provost for animal research and resources and associate professor in the Department of Comparative Medicine.

From the Technical Literature

Human-Animal Interactions in Research

Comber and Griffin (2007, *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 10(3): 267–277) examined factors contributing to negative human-animal interactions in the laboratory and how these factors might be remedied to improve animal welfare and science. Scientific literature searches and fieldwork at Canadian animal research institutions were conducted. It was revealed that mice are the least preferred terrestrial species. The authors attributed this finding to

the animals' behaviors, such as fear-induced biting, and their small size, as well as the constraints of working in barrier facilities and negative societal views of rodents. The authors recommend increased attention to human-animal interactions in the laboratory, especially with respect to mice. Improved interactions could improve welfare and reduce the number of animals used by decreasing stress-induced variation between animals.

The authors also suggested that more research is needed on the following issues: the impact of genetic engineering on human-animal interactions, the impact of improved staff attitudes on animal welfare, the impact of environmental enrichment on the attractiveness of species, and the impact on staff and animals of providing caregivers time for strictly positive interactions with animals.

Effect of Enrichment on Stress

Meijer et al. (2007, *Laboratory Animals*, 41(2): 161–173) examined the effect in female mice of environmental enrichment and handling on acute stress response during restraint. Two groups of mice were handled only when necessary; one group received enrichment and one did not. Two other groups were handled and gentled each weekday for 30–60 seconds by the same person; one group received enrichment and one did not. Once a week for three weeks, the same handler restrained each mouse for

approximately 10 seconds by holding the scruff and tail base, tilting the head downward, and palpating the abdomen gently. Heart rate and body temperature were measured through surgically implanted radio telemetry devices and compared with plasma corticosterone (pCORT) levels in the blood. Enrichment and handling increased the stress response during restraint, based on heart rate and body temperature results; however, pCORT values suggested a lower stress response to restraint in the

enriched groups overall. Since enrichment is generally accepted as reducing chronic stress, the authors suggest that more research is needed to investigate the opposite effect that enrichment may have on the acute stress response; however, they advise adding detailed and objective observations to the experimental protocol, since housing conditions influenced the mice's behavior during the experiment.

Updates to Alternatives Websites

Altweb, the website of the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, has a new section on refinement featuring a nontechnical explanation of “refinement” and links to databases, websites, publications, and other resources. To view the site, go to altweb.jhsph.edu/refinement/index.htm.

The “Information Portal” of the UK National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) website has a new section on implementing alternatives in wildlife research, including information on field studies, captive studies, legal requirements, and applying the Three Rs. To view the site, go to nc3rs.org.uk/category.asp?catID=79.

OLAW Sample Assurance and FAQ

The NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) has updated the sample assurance document on its website to clarify and define what information is essential for submission. For more information, go to grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/sampledoc/assur.htm.

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of OLAW’s website also has been updated with additional answers to questions on topics such as defining nonscientific and nonaffiliated Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee members, releasing information through the Freedom of Information Act, reporting minority views, providing grant application information, adopting research animals, and preparing for a pandemic. The FAQ can be found at grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm.

Workshop Slides Available

Information is now available online regarding the Scientific Workshop on Acute Chemical Safety Testing: Advancing *In Vitro* Approaches and Humane Endpoints for Systemic Toxicity Evaluations, held Feb. 6–7 by the U.S. Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods, the U.S. National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicology Methods, the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods, and the Japanese Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods. For the agenda, meeting materials, workshop presentations, references, and registry information, go to iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/methods/acute/tox/Tox_workshop.htm. Draft reports prepared by breakout groups will be collated and made available in the future.

Human Tissue for Research

The International Institute for the Advancement of Medicine (IIAM) places nontransplantable donated organs and tissues with academic, government, pharmaceutical, and private research institutions. Tissue donation has the potential to reduce the number of animals used in harmful research. For more information, visit iiam.org.

Sixth World Congress Proceedings Now Online

Proceedings of the Sixth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, held in March 2008 in Tokyo, Japan, are available online at altweb.jhsph.edu/wc6. The World Congresses are the largest international conferences on alternatives to animal use in biomedical research, testing, and education. The biennial conferences focus on the Three Rs. The Seventh World Congress will be held in 2009 in Rome, Italy.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

IACUC 101/201 PLUS

Hosted by the University of California, San Francisco, and the California Biomedical Research Association

Sept. 23–24

San Francisco, Calif.

ca-biomed.org/pdf/IACUC101_201PlusReg.pdf

Animal Research in a Global Environment: Meeting the Challenges

Hosted by the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research

Sept. 23–26

Washington, D.C.

dels.nas.edu/ilar_n/ilarhome/whatsnew.shtml

IACUC-Advanced

Hosted by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare

Oct. 8

Las Vegas, Nev.

scaw.com/iacuc-advanced.htm

Meeting the Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act: A Workshop

Hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Information Center

Oct. 22–23

Beltsville, Md.

awic.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=3&tax_level=1&tax_subject=188

Pain & Distress Report

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Canadian Animal Use Statistics for 2006

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) has released its annual report of animal use statistics for 2006. The number of animals used in scientific procedures for research, testing, education, and production of animals and biologics for scientific purposes in Canada totaled 2,535,989, a 9% increase from 2005. The main types of animals used in 2006 were mice, fish, rats, “wild species,” and birds. These animals

accounted for 92% of the total number of animals used. There was an 18% increase between 2005 and 2006 in the number of nonhuman primates used (to 4,363); CCAC attributes this to an increasing use of these animals in behavioral studies, with little or no discomfort or stress. Categories D (experiments that cause moderate to severe distress or discomfort) and E (experiments that cause severe pain

to unanesthetized, conscious animals) accounted for 816,331 animals (32%) and 179,781 animals (7%), respectively, up 6 and 8% from 2005, respectively. No nonhuman primates, dogs, or cats were used in category E procedures. To view the results in their entirety, visit ccac.ca/en/Publications/Facts_Figures/pdfs/Survey_2006.pdf.

Helpful Websites

Scientists from Technical University in Dresden, Germany, the National German Centre for Documentation and Evaluation of Alternatives to Animal Experiments (ZEBET), and the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment have created Go3R.org, a knowledge-based, free search engine for alternatives to animal experiments.

The NIH Office of Extramural Research has a new website and online reporting tool, report.nih.gov, which provides data and analyses of NIH research programs and activities, links to abstracts in Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects (CRISP), a glossary of reporting terminology, FAQs, and more.

Recent Publications

Capdevila, S., Giral, M., Ruiz de la Torre, J.L., Russell, R.J., and Kramer, K. (2007). Acclimatization of rats after ground transportation to a new animal facility. *Laboratory Animals*, 41(2): 255–261.

Cartner, S.C., Barlow, S.C., and Ness, T.J. (2007). Loss of cortical function in mice after decapitation, cervical dislocation, potassium chloride injection, and CO₂ inhalation. *Comparative Medicine*, 57(6): 570–573.

Jessen, L., Christensen, S., and Bjerrum, O.J. (2007). The antinociceptive efficacy of buprenorphine administered through the drinking water of rats. *Laboratory Animals*, 41(2): 185–196.

Kostomitsopoulos, N.G., Paronis, E., Alexakos, P., and Balafas, E. (2007). The influence of the location of a nest box in an individually ventilated cage on the preference of mice to use it. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 10(2): 111–121.

Pain & Distress Report

The *Pain & Distress Report* provides laboratory animal veterinarians, technicians, oversight committees, and others with up-to-date information on issues regarding pain and distress in laboratory animals.

E-mail ari@humanesociety.org for a free subscription to the electronic version of the newsletter; copies are also available online at humanesociety.org/pain_distress_report. Please share this report with your colleagues and IACUC members.



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