

Australian Association for Humane Research



How would YOU feel
being tested on?!

New AAHR
Contact Details

Feature Articles:

Indonesia: the trade
in primates for research

Public opinion poll

Government spends over \$1M
in eye experiments on kittens

News & Updates

Offshore Animal Tests

Xenotransplantation:
Trading in 'Spare Parts'

Investing In Cruelty

Art & Poetry
Competition
Winners



from the CEO



Welcome,

With so much happening in the world lately it's difficult to know whether it will mean positive or negative change for the millions of animals used in research each year. Could the global financial crisis mean that perhaps less government funding will be available for animal research grants? Could the swine flu outbreak suggest that countless more animals will be used in the search for a new vaccine? Nothing is really certain – other than the fact that we need

to continue challenging the cruel and pointless practice of subjecting animals to experimental procedures.

The swine flu outbreak that originated from animals, has occurred at a time when the Australian federal government is considering whether to extend or lift its ban on xenotransplantation research. (See page 5) The practice of transplanting cells, tissue or organs from one species to another came under scrutiny five years ago when the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) considered allowing animal to human transplants. The five year moratorium was announced due to the risk of the possible emergence of a zoonotic pandemic. Ironically, it is pigs that are most commonly used as 'source' animals.

Let's hope that after HIV/AIDS, avian influenza, BSE and now swine flu - all viruses that originated from zoonotic sources - common sense will prevail and our government will ensure that the current ban on such high risk research will be made permanent. The moratorium is due to end by the end of this year. If you too are concerned about the lifting of the ban, we urge you to contact your local federal parliamentary member.

The global financial crisis has also affected AAHR and we continue to seek ways to boost our fundraising and to reduce overheads so that our resources and your donations are best used where they are needed most – on the campaign trail. We have therefore moved to smaller premises and our new contact details can be found on the back cover.

If you're not already on our email list please sign up so that you'll be updated on our campaigns, news and fundraising events – and keep a look out for our sponsored walk in particular!

Thank you to each of you who continue to support our important work.

Helen

Helen Marston



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* NOTE: References for all articles are available upon request.



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SPENDS OVER \$1MIL DOLLARS IN EYE EXPERIMENTS ON KITTENS

An eye-opening expose on current Australian Research

Over one million dollars of Australian taxpayer's money has been spent funding NHMRC grants given to the University of Sydney for an experiment which uses kittens as a model for eye disease of premature infants.

The disease, Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), is a disorder of the retina which can result in loss of vision. With the increasing survival rates of premature babies less than 1kg and 26 weeks' gestation there is an increased risk of ROP.

However in an attempt to recreate the effects of ROP, researchers at the University of Sydney have exposed kittens to high levels of oxygen within a hyperoxic chamber.

In one experiment researchers placed kittens aged between one and four days' old with a lactating mother in the chamber (which consists of 60-70% oxygen in the air – normal air contains 20% oxygen) for up to 4 days. The purpose was to observe changes to the cells and blood vessels.

The reason for these experiments, according to the researchers, is that depending on the level of oxygen administered to neonates, the resultant hyperoxia can result in severe vessel constriction and delayed vascularisation.

But according to US human eye specialist Dr Stephen Kaufman, the applicability of the animal model is questionable because the method of induction of disease in the kittens differs from that in humans.

Dr Kaufman says "The research protocol involves "vaso-oblation" or "localized vessel regression", while in ROP the problem is neither: it involves failure of normal blood vessels to develop in the first place. While the kitten and human condition

might resemble each other, even subtle differences in pathogenesis can result in differences in disease manifestation at the cellular level at which these studies are focused. Further, any differences between cats and humans in normal retinal structure at an anatomic or cellular level would compromise the application of animal data to humans".

Although after expending huge amounts of government funding and donations from the philanthropic organisations, Financial Markets Foundation for Children and the Rebecca Cooper Medical Research Foundation, the researchers summarised the study by saying even "more work is needed" to verify the conclusions of their research!

AAHR argues that to simply pour more money and resources into this animal model for human disease is not only wasteful, it is unscientific (to base this research on animals).

In fact, according to Dr Stephen Kaufman "It is possible that data directly relevant to human patients could come from autopsies from babies with Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) who died of complications of their prematurity".

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please write to the NHMRC asking them to stop funding animal experiments and instead fund epidemiological studies

Prof Warwick Anderson,
Chief Executive Officer
NHMRC
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Or email: ahec.nhmrc@nhmrc.gov.au

And write to the following expressing your disappointment at such wasteful and futile research

Dr Michael Spence
Vice Chancellor
University of Sydney, NSW 2006
E-mail: Vice-Chancellor@vcc.usyd.edu.au

And also write to the following philanthropic foundations expressing your disappointment that they funded this wasteful and misleading animal-based research:

Financial Markets Foundation for Children
GPO Box 3655
Sydney NSW 2000
FoundationForChildren@afma.com.au

Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation
142 Glenayre Ave., Bondi NSW 2026
Email: secretary@cooperfoundation.org.au

The National Health & Medical Research Council Grant No. 153789 2001 \$135,475 2002 \$136,035 2003 \$136,035 2004 \$136,035 2005 \$199,535	The National Health & Medical Research Council Grant No. 402824 2006 \$116,750 2007 \$119,000 2008 \$121,500 2009 \$121,500 2010 \$121,500
The National Health & Medical Research Council Grant No. 402581 Unknown \$	Financial Markets Foundation for Children Grant 2004-2005 \$120,832
Rebecca Cooper Medical Research Foundation Provided a grant for an unknown amount	

Break up of funding for this experiment.

HUMANE CHARTIES

The Humane Charities List is a guide to health-related charities that do not fund or engage in animal testing.

By donating to any of the charities on this list, you will be directing vital funding towards organisations that do not fund animal testing. If your favourite charity is not listed here and does not fund animal research, please encourage them to contact us or download the application for listing from our website www.humanecharities.org.au. You may also send us their contact details and we will approach them to verify whether they qualify for listing. As at publication, the 'humane' charities are as follows, but please check our website for regular updates:

- Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd
- Ashcare Incorporated
- Aspect (Autism Spectrum Australia)
- The Aurum Project
- Australian Cord Blood Bank Foundation
- Australian Foundation for Disability
- Australia Healthy Mission
- Barkuma Incorporated
- Bonnie Babes Foundation
- The Cairnmillar Institute
- Careflight (NRMA)
- Council on the Ageing (NSW) Inc.
- Crisis Support Services
- Epilepsy Association of SA & NT Inc.
- Extended Families Australia
- The Fred Hollows Foundation
- The Geriatric Medical Foundation of Qld
- GROW (SA)
- HAPPI Foundation Ltd.
- The Hippocrates Foundation
- The John Pierce Centre
- K-I-D-S Foundation
- The MAWA (Medical Advances Without Animals) Trust
- Montrose Access (The Qld Society for Crippled Children)
- ParaQuad Victoria
- Phoenix Society Inc.
- Quest for Life Foundation
- The Richmond Fellowship of NSW
- Royal Freemason's Benevolent Institution of NSW.
- The Royal Society for the Blind (SA)
- Scope (Vic) Ltd.
- Senses Foundation Inc.
- The Society for Multiply Disabled People of Tasmania Inc.
- Toowoomba Hospital Foundation
- Variety Australia, The Children's Charity.
- Vicdeaf (Victorian Deaf Society)
- Yooralla

HumaneCharities
NO ANIMAL TESTING

www.humanecharities.org.au



WORLD WEEK FOR ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

Each year in April, a lot of people around the world recognize World Week for Animals in Laboratories (WWAIL) as a time to highlight the abhorrent use of animals in research and teaching.

AAHR initiated the Green Ribbon campaign in 2008, to highlight the existence of cutting-edge technological research methods that avoid the use of animals and to promote these alternatives as the most effective and humane strategy to eliminate human diseases and provide safer medicines. Green Ribbon Week is celebrated in April each year, to commemorate World Week for Animals in Laboratories.

This year our campaign was bigger and better as AAHR took to the streets of Melbourne distributing green ribbons to train commuters at morning peak hours. We also featured in The Age newspaper and advertised on TV Week and Dolly magazine websites reaching a much larger audience than ever before.



Thank you to our members and supporters who took to the streets, and to those who placed our merchandise and posters in their work tearooms, schools and local businesses.

REVERSING DIABETES: NEAL BARNARD TOUR

During his recent book launch tour of Australia, AAHR staff was fortunate to meet with Dr Neal Barnard of US-based group Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

Dr Barnard – an opponent of animal-based research – advocated the benefits of a vegan diet in actually reversing diabetes – a disease which is becoming more and more prevalent in today's society.

Copies of his book *Reversing Diabetes* are available for sale from Melbourne University Bookshop. Ph. (03) 8344 4088 or email bookshop-info@unimelb.edu.au



XENOTRANSPLANTATION

trading in 'spare parts'

Helen Marston delivers a timely reminder about the dangers of Xenotransplantation as the 2004 moratorium draws to a close

Xenotransplantation is the term used to describe the transplantation of organs, tissue or cells from one species to another. It has been pursued by researchers due to the lack of available human donors and more recently, in an attempt to treat diabetes by using cells derived from pig foetuses.

In 2002 the Australian Government undertook a public consultation to determine whether or not to allow clinical trials of xenotransplantation. After a lengthy consultation process, in 2004, the National Health and Medical Research Council recommended that no clinical trials involving animal to human transplantation should be conducted in Australia for five years as the risk of animal to human viral transmission was not well understood. The NHMRC's decision is due for review by December 2009.

AAHR has been advised by experts (including Prof. Peter Collignon, Director Infectious Diseases Unit and Microbiology Department, The Canberra Hospital) that the concerns remain unchanged.

PAINFUL EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS

Animals suffer terribly during xeno research. They are often genetically-modified, and recipient animals must have their immune system suppressed to lessen the chance of rejection.

The 'Diaries of Despair', an expose by British group Uncaged, is a harrowing report of the suffering. Uncaged's Director, Dan Lyons, stated in an interview *"One of the most unfortunate animals had a piglet*

heart transplanted into his neck. It was a particularly disturbing example, I think, because for several days he was holding the heart. It was swollen. It was seeping blood; it was seeping pus as a result of the infections that often occur in the wound site. He suffered from body tremors, vomiting, diarrhea. And the animal just sat there. I think living hell is really the only sort of real way you can get close to describing what it must be like to have been that animal in that situation."

Note: Uncaged Campaigns has achieved an astonishing legal success by winning the right to publish the Diaries of Despair report and over a thousand pages of confidential documents. Uncaged Campaigns argued successfully that it was in the public interest to reveal the shocking truth behind one of Britain's most extreme programs of animal experiments in recent history. More information is available by visiting www.xenodiaries.org

RISK OF ZOOONOTIC PANDEMIC

AIDS, BSE (Mad Cow Disease), Ebola viruses and some of the major flu epidemics such as Avian flu, originated from cross-species contamination. Porcine Endogenous Retrovirus (PERV) has already been discovered in the animals intended to be used as a source for organ donors. Current tests are unable to diagnose potential xeno-zoonotic viruses with their unknown pathogenic behaviour, and, even if detected, the viruses are largely untreatable.

In a recent letter, the NHMRC themselves state that xenotransplantation carries a "low but unquantifiable risk of cross species viral transmission"!

RISK TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Not only would clinical trials be exposing the organ (or tissue) recipient to major health risks, but these risks would also be extended to the recipient's carers and

families and the wider community. Considering that viruses may initially show no obvious signs of disease and may spread beyond the recipient into the general population before they become evident, at what stage will researchers deem their patients as no longer carrying any risk? And during that period before the disease is identified or acknowledged, how many people are likely to have been exposed to that disease? Certainly an individual has the right to expose themselves to any risks involved in scientific research but to further expose that risk to the wider community, who have NOT given consent, is highly unethical. Indeed the number of individuals that could suffer and die from a new epidemic could greatly exceed those potential lives which xenotransplantation was supposed to have saved in the first place.

Australia simply cannot allow research into xenotransplantation to proceed. It would cause extreme cruelty to countless animals, expose entire communities to the risk of a potential zoonotic epidemic and appears to hold little promise of resolving the problem of a shortage of human organs and tissues.

Please write to the federal Health Minister and urge her to not allow this risky and unethical research to continue:

**The Hon. Nicola Roxon MP
Minister for Health
PO Box 6022**

**House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

Email: Nicola.Roxon.MP@aph.gov.au

Update 29 April 2009. Since writing this article, the swine virus has received global headlines over the last few weeks. Such an outbreak can perhaps serve as a pre-cursor to what may be unleashed on the nation (and indeed, world) should our government decide to lift the current moratorium on clinical trials of xenotransplantation research.

Offshore Animal Tests



In the face of rising costs and increasing opposition from animal rights groups, multinational pharmaceutical companies have moved much of their research offshore. Jacqueline Cuthbertson, BAppSc(health)RN RM Grad Dip Comm.Dip.Journalism highlights the setback for animals and science.

The western world has become enamored of the 'Quick Fix' and there is a drug for almost every disease in spite of the fact that many of our so called life-style illnesses are preventable. Conditions are good for the pharmaceutical companies especially in Australia where drugs are subsidized by the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme. Figures released in 2009 showed that Australian pharmaceutical sales passed the US\$7bn mark in 2008 (1).

Drug companies are keen to ensure that their profit margins increase. Their biggest cost is that of developing new medications and in Australia there are more than 450 new drugs being produced (2). According to the Food and Drug Administration in America (FDA), it costs around \$500 million to develop a drug and 10-15 percent of that cost goes to animal testing (4). It takes an average of eight and a half years to develop a compound and out of a possible 5000 tested only five will get through to the next stage (3,4). The FDA states that it requires tests to be conducted on two animal species for each drug.

In the face of rising costs and increasing opposition from animal rights groups, multinational pharmaceutical companies have moved much of their research offshore to places such as Latin America, Eastern Europe, India and China. The Asian market is opening its arms wide and assuring businesses of low costs, plenty of animals and no activists.

A clinical trial for a drug which normally costs US\$10 million in the west can be had for under \$6 million in China or India. Last year Bridge Laboratories raised US\$18 million to extend a toxicology lab in Beijing (5).

The conditions have encouraged companies such as Novartis, Ely Lilly and Roche, and many labs will offer contract animal testing for drug and cosmetic companies. Singapore's Agency for Science Technology and Research has promised the best facilities and has attracted large multi-national companies while the state strictly controls any public debate or objection. Shanghai provides outsourced animal tests for 60 customers and 80 percent of the major drug companies. China is popular for its plentiful supply of animals, particularly primates and dogs.

In India, while there is no objection to the use of smaller animals the government will only allow dogs to be used in non-lethal experiments and monkeys not at all. However, the pharmaceutical industry is pushing to have regulations changed. Research in India is around 30 percent cheaper than Australia and 50 percent cheaper than America. The Indian biotechnology industry brought in around US\$2billion in 2005 (6,7).

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations admits that there are a few problems where operator skills are inferior but that this is being addressed by having the sponsoring companies help in training (5).

An interesting point is that *"although the diversity of Asia's genetic and ethnic background has been cited as a benefit for human clinical trials, it is also thought to be a draw-*

back because the target race is slightly different genetically to the western world target population."

A self-damning indictment which undermines the whole theory behind animal testing!

There is no indication that these companies will be reducing the number of animal tests undertaken. The CEO of Bridge Pharmaceuticals in Beijing, Glenn Rice said that there can be no substitute to testing on animals, even though The European Union and the FDA has committed to reducing the number of animal tests they conduct, and that there is mounting pressure from scientists and the public (8). The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine along with an international coalition of scientists, doctors and animal-protection organisations pointed out that "90 percent of drugs tested in people after seemingly successful



animal tests are not approved for wider use because they don't work or they are unsafe. Half of the remainder are later withdrawn or relabeled with new warnings of adverse effects not detected by animal tests".(9).

The Vioxx incident is an example of this, where thousands of people died from cardiac arrests thought to be brought about by the drug, which had been shown to be safe in animals.

From an animal welfare point of view People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has accused Ely Lilly of backing down on its commitment to follow the European Union's lead and reduce, refine and replace its use of animals in laboratories. The drug company admitted that there were problems with standards in animal testing and PETA spokesperson, Mary Beth Sweetland, questioned the likelihood of welfare regulations being upheld in China (10).

"China did not have any animal welfare regulations until 2004 and Lui Di director of the Chinese Association for the Protection of Small Animals said that regulations are ineffective and not well implemented".

She said, "Animal testing is inevitable and we want to focus on advocating companies and universities use the best standards and processes they can to minimise any pain caused to the animals" (8).

The first World Lab Animal Day in China was held last year. The group says it is aware that there has been a lack of information about lab animal protection but it aims to rectify this by raising awareness in China. Their website is <http://www.arc.ngo.cn>.

Bridge Pharmaceuticals' Beijing facility claims to be complying with US standards by making sure that the air and water are monitored and cages are clean (8).

A reduction in the number of animal tests conducted seems unlikely as the move to these offshore facilities reduces costs and makes more pre-clinical trials possible than previously. Local voices for the animals are stifled, and thus incentives for change are reduced. Off shore testing allows more drugs to become available even for the so-called 'orphan' diseases which are small in number and not worthwhile producing from western labs.

Meanwhile, people in western society continue to expect to take a pill to cure illnesses which are largely preventable such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes type II, some cancers, obesity and many respiratory diseases.

Health care is heavily weighted to the curative rather than the preventative side of the fence, and only a small part of Australia's health budget is spent on disease prevention. So it seems that there is a situation of lower costs and an ever-increasing market for pharmaceutical goods. There is no compulsion to change over to more scientifically valid and humane testing methods and so it is more important than ever for groups such as AAHR and of course your help, to keep up the pressure.

Update

MONASH UNI REPLACES LIVE RABBIT EXPERIMENTS

Regular visitors to our website will be aware of the undercover footage we have published of Monash University's use of live rabbits in its Cardiovascular Physiology class, despite a non-animal alternative being available. The live rabbits were anaesthetised, tied down by their legs and teeth and had their throats slit in order to insert a catheter to administer drugs that raise and lower their heart rates. After completion of the experiment the rabbits were killed.

Following much publicized protests by Animal Liberation, and letters of objection from AAHR and its supporters, a representative of Monash University has advised that the practical session "PHY 3171 - Clinical and Experimental Cardiovascular Physiology" has been discontinued.

The practical sessions have been replaced with non-invasive experiments in humans using the Finometer MIDI. Blood pressure, heart rate, cardiac output and peripheral vascular responses will be determined in human volunteers. These measurements will be made under control conditions and in response to changes in posture/central blood volume, mental arithmetic, and application of cold to the feet.

They further advised that "Monash is currently introducing a new review process, in addition to Animal Ethics Committee review, which will have all teaching activities proposing to use any animals including observational studies reviewed by the Education Committee to firstly assess the merit of the teaching objectives and secondly to ensure that all alternate methods, not using animals, of achieving such teaching objectives have been exhausted."

A huge thank you to all members and supporters who contacted Monash about this experiment.

Source: Personal email 16 February 2009

News

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTES 'NO' ON CLONED ANIMALS FOR FOOD

On 25 March 2009, an overwhelming majority of Members of the European Parliament voted against the authorisation of food products from cloned animals and their offspring.

Around 50% of cloned farm animals die either shortly before birth or within a few days or weeks afterwards. Many are born with malformed lungs, kidneys or other essential organs.

The Scientific Opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) shows that cloning causes severe health and welfare problems for both cloned animals and their surrogate dams. EFSA said: "The mortality rate of clones is considerably higher than in sexually produced animals" and there is "evidence of increased morbidity of clones compared with sexually produced animals."

An opinion poll also showed that a very high percentage of European consumers do not like cloning for human consumption.

Source: Compassion in World Farming press release 31 March 2009.

Update

LOGAN POUND DOG CAMPAIGN

As mentioned in previous newsletters, AAHR has been campaigning to stop the provision of pound dogs to University of Queensland for veterinary training purposes.

Upon receiving our correspondence, Brisbane Council understood our concerns and was quick to ban the practice. Unfortunately the remaining two councils have not understood our concerns. Caboolture (Moreton Bay) is currently reviewing its policy and Logan has unfortunately renewed its contract to continue to supply animals.

The good news is that we believe we are progressing with this issue even if a little more slowly than we'd hoped.

The Queensland Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries has requested his Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to consider this issue in further detail.

We've also been advised that University of Queensland is looking toward alternative options including working closely with councils to offer a desexing service.

It appears that the university and the Qld government may be listening to public opinion and we do believe that we will see some success in this area.



Our Art and poetry competition was a strategy to get secondary school age students to consider animal experiments. The competition closed on April 10th and we were heartened to see that it is an issue that students, once aware, have become very passionate about. The competition has been sponsored by Kodak and Pure Geisha toiletries that have each provided prizes. We are also very grateful to Juliana Burgess and Doug Leith for judging the submissions. The winners of the competition are as follows:



How would YOU feel being tested on?!



JAIDE LIANG

Birrong Girls High School, Year 8



SAMANTHA LUXFORD
Willoughby Girls High School,
Year 11



LISA MOHAMMADI

Birrong Girls High School, Year 8

Art and Poetry Competition



ANIMALS ARE JUST LIKE US

Animals are just like us,
They eat, drink, sleep and breathe,
But the way they are treated is unjust,
Most humans are naïve.

So why do we use them?
For research, study and experiments,
It's human's ignorance we need to mend,
It all doesn't make sense.

The mice, rats, rabbits, dogs and cats,
All suffering for human's greed,
But it is time to face the facts,
These experiments are not good deeds.

This research is inhumane,
Stand up, fight, say no,
Why are we giving unnecessary pain?
There is a better way to go.

All creatures great and small,
Have feelings and minds,
Have you seen how they torture them all?
Researchers have crossed the line.

Not only is it horrific for animal life,
Human's health risk is great,
Relying on animal experiments means
strife,
Using these products is tempting your
own fate.

Animals are just like us,
They eat, drink, sleep and breathe,
The way they are treated is unjust,
So stop it now, please.

JENNA BOSELEY

Sacred Heart College, Geelong
Year 9

EPIPHANY

While you stand
at your mirror,
Not reading the labels you so
adore,
Not thinking of torturous
horror,
Whose face are you really
wearing?

With lotions, cleansers,
scents and sprays,
You parade yourself in col-
ours gay,
But one will not live to see
another day,
Whose face are you really
wearing?

And in some place across the
land,
Death, perhaps, is close at
hand,
A beast will die for an expen-
sive brand,
Whose face are you really
wearing?

But maybe you'll listen,
maybe agree,
And throw away the unneces-
sary,
Or not, and still sing that
grim melody.
If so, I ask you again,
Whose face are you really
wearing today?

ELIZA JANSSEN

Korowa Anglican Girls School, Glen Iris
Year 7



THE GAME

Let us play a Game.
A Game with no
freedom.

A Game with no
rules or boundaries.
A Game that only
ends when we are all
dead.

A Game where I am
the loser and you are
the hand that
chooses.

The hand that
chooses who will be
the next to see what I
saw.

I saw the Game.
I played the Game.
I lost.

A game of animal
experimentation and
exploitation....

THERESA DINH

Emmaus College, Vermont South
Year 8



PUBLIC OPINION POLL

what are we thinking?

AAHR recently commissioned market research to investigate Australian public perceptions around the issue of animal research. Paul Crossley reports.

Last year AAHR engaged market research firm, Nexus Research to measure Australian public perceptions on the issue of animal experimentation. This important work was enabled through a grant from Voiceless sponsored by Lush Fresh Hand-made Cosmetics.

AAHR undertook the work because as we plan our campaigns, in order to ensure we are focused on the areas where we can be most effective, we need to understand:

- the current level of awareness of the experiments carried out in Australia;
- the level of public support or opposition to animal experimentation; and
- what segments of our community supports or opposes animal experimentation.

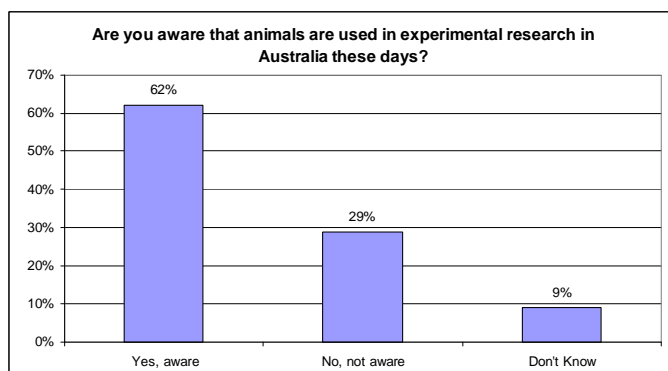
In addition, this barometer of public opinion enables us to measure how effective our efforts are at bringing about positive change, by comparing public opinion in another poll in the future. Some of the findings are outlined below.

General awareness

- Only 62% of respondents were aware that animals are still used in experimental research in Australia.
- Few respondents (less than 20%) were aware that not only mice and rats but dogs, horses, cattle, sheep and snakes are used in experimental research.
- With regard to the species used in experiments, the strongest opposition was where the experiments involved dogs and primates as opposed to rats and mice.
- Interestingly, despite overall opposition to using animals in research, a high 59% of respondents believe that animal experiments are necessary for the development of medicine for humans. When asked about awareness of specific alternatives to animals in research, very few respondents (3% or less) were aware of each of the alternatives. Clearly there is some public education needed.

Attitudes to research (by research purpose)

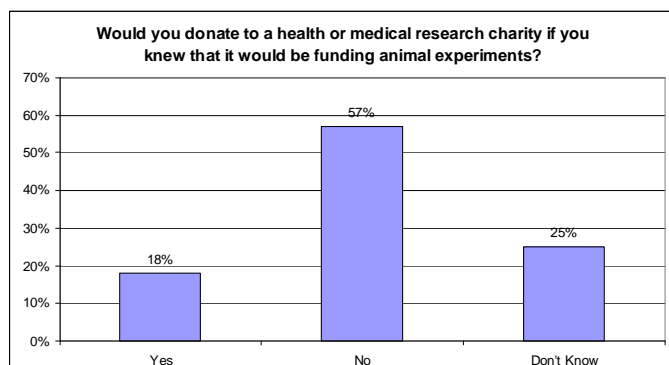
- Only 6% of respondents support using animals in household product testing.
- Only 5% of respondents support using animals in developing cosmetics. Interestingly, a higher percentage of female respondents than male indicated opposition to using animals in cosmetic testing.
- The support is stronger (45%) when respondents were asked if the experiments were for developing pharmaceuticals for people.
- 35% of respondents support using animals for basic research
- And 41% support using animals in research for teaching purposes.
- Opposition to using animals in research was higher when the procedures resulted in major physiological change or death to the animal as opposed to observational studies involving minor interference.



Should we use animals in research?

- Only 14% of respondents believe it is safe to transfer results of animal experiments to apply to humans.
- Only 23% believe that humans have the moral right to experiment on animals.
- In terms of the numbers of animals used in experiments each year (approximately 7 million) nearly 90% believe that this number should be reduced.
- 79% believe medical research grants should be used at least in part to find alternatives to animal experiments.

- 57% of respondents indicated that they would not donate to a medical research or charity if they knew that it would be funding animal experiments
- While there was a low awareness of problems caused in drugs such as Vioxx, TGN1312, Ritalin, Clonidine, Thalidomide and others, 78% of respondents were concerned about the danger of reliance of new pharmaceuticals that were tested on animals.



Conclusion

The sample surveyed was sufficient in size to be considered representative of the Australian population from a statistical perspective. The detailed research indicated slight differences between male and female responses, geographical regions and political persuasions, but these were not substantial differences. Responses appear fairly consistent across these segments.

While Australian public support for using animals in research isn't strong overall, the public appears to be largely uninformed as to the wide spread use of animals in research, the dangers of animal based research and the available alternatives. If these facts were more widely known it seems reasonable to conclude that the support would be far less.

The research also begs the question "why, when there is general opposition to animal based research, did 7 million animals lose their lives in Australia last year?" Perhaps the answer lies in vested interests protecting the animal experimentation industry and ignorance and apathy paving the way to sustaining such practices.

So we have a job to do...all of us!



Paul Crossley (right) accepts the Voiceless grant sponsored by Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics on behalf of AAHR. Photo courtesy of Sue Murray/Imagine It.



www.veganperfection.com.au

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- AMAZING ORGANICA CHOCOLATE SNACK BARS
- FABULOUS FUDGE FACTORY FUDGES
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investing in cruelty

Helen Marston puts Australian Biotechnology companies under the microscope

Shareholders take many things into consideration when choosing ways in which to invest and when considering shares, increasingly consider the actual activities in which the company engages. For example there is a growing interest in environmental, climatic and ethical issues with an increasing number of investors seeking out environmentally-sustainable companies or those that refuse to employ child labour.

AAHR recently conducted a review of the approximately 160 Australian publicly-listed companies that fall under the categories of "Healthcare & Equipment" and "Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences". We wanted to ascertain:

- whether they use animals in their research,
- to what extent they are committed to the 3R's principle (Reduce Refine and Replace), and finally
- whether or not they invest in the development and validation of non-animal methods of research.

While not all companies responded to our enquiries, only 28 (17%) confirmed that they do not use animals in any way, although their products may have been previously tested on animals.

Only Blackmores Ltd, Labtech Systems and OBJ Ltd reported funding the development or validation of alternative research. Blackmores, for example, has actively supported the introduction of laboratory test methods (such as Skintex and Eytex) that don't use animals and provided funding for the development of teaching programmes that replace or reduce the use of animals for teaching purposes. To support the efficacy claims of its products, Blackmores' preference is to rely on traditional use and scientific validation using human data (which includes clinical trials and *in vitro* testing using cells and tissue cultures).

On the other hand, one company even admitted to using the antiquated eye irritancy test (Draize Test) despite there being alternatives readily available. The Draize Test is a particularly painful

method whereby toxic substances are applied to the eyes of animals to determine the level of irritancy. Due to the availability of several alternatives this particular test requires written approval from the Minister of Agriculture prior to it being conducted.

Animal testing increases Risk

"While biotech companies may offer high returns when "breakthroughs" are announced, the high risks are often forgotten by potential investors". Animal studies very rarely translate to absolute success in human cures and promises of such breakthroughs frequently don't amount to real cures in the long term.

Biotechnology companies are open to the same risk factors normally associated with equities –but they also carry their specific risks – that of failure of clinical trials and even the emergence of unexpected side effects occurring after a drug has been approved and gone to market. Prior to human trials, drugs will have 'successfully' passed animal tests. Drug companies can lose millions of dollars when large scale human trials fail and such events have proven disastrous over a long period of time. Consider even recently with examples from large biotechs such as Merck, TeGenero AG, AstraZeneca and Pfizer.



Despite being proven 'safe' through animal tests, Merck's heart drug Vioxx was withdrawn from sale in October 2004 after being linked to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke. The disaster resulted in over 13,000 lawsuits against Merck.

TGN1412 was a genetically engineered "humanised" protein which was being developed by German pharmaceutical company TeGenero AG. It was intended to treat inflammatory conditions, rheumatism and leukaemia. In March 2006 the six male volunteers involved in

the trial experienced excessive swelling of the head and neck followed by systemic organ failure. The company entered into insolvency proceedings later in 2006. Some of those subjects will never make a full recovery.

In October 2006, a highly promising stroke drug called NXY-059 failed in the final phase of a clinical trial. On the day of the announcement, AstraZeneca's share price dropped 7.5% and shares in Renovis, the biotechnology company that licensed the drug to AstraZeneca plummeted over 75%.

In December 2006, Pfizer, the world's biggest pharmaceutical company suspended its trial of heart drug, torcetrapib, after it was found to increase heart risk (despite its success when tested on animals) resulting in 82 human deaths. The company had invested US\$1 billion in the trials. As well as the loss of profits to shareholders, the failure was also linked to the redundancy of 10% of its workforce (approx. 10,000 employees).

Companies that rely on non-animal methods provide better results in their trials

Studies show that non-animal methods provide better results than animal tests as there is no "species differences" to take into consideration – differences in anatomy, metabolism, genetics, all of which can render results from one species useless when applied to another. Non-animal tests are therefore less costly, less time consuming and provide more accurate data.

According to veterinarian Dr Andrew Knight, "Alternatives are much more consistent. Animal tests tend to be very inconsistent. Alternatives are also much more predictive of human outcomes, and they're a heck of a lot quicker. A traditional rodent assay of carcinogenicity takes around three years to design, conduct and interpret whereas a cell culture assay or a database predicting biological activity based on chemical structure will take minutes to hours to days. They are much cheaper and they are much more accurate in terms of predicting human outcomes."

The organization Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America estimates that only 5 in 5,000 compounds that enter preclinical (animal) testing make it to human testing, and only 1 of those 5 again may be effective enough to reach pharmacy shelves. That's a success rate of 0.02% ! It's a safe assumption that if you went into business with only a 0.02% chance of success, you may struggle to win

investors over.

Regulatory hurdles

A main obstacle in the continued use of animals relates to the safety standards required by regulatory authorities. As quoted by one drug development company "Most companies will try to avoid costly animal studies if regulators allow other more human[e] alternatives." In Australia the TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) does not specifically require animal tests. However in order to maximize returns, many pharmaceuticals and healthcare products are marketed worldwide, and testing must therefore conform to the requirements of other regulatory bodies. Somewhat amazingly, the Food and Drugs Administration (U.S.) for example specifies the requirement that two or more animal species must be tested on – ironically, because the drug may affect one species differently than the other!

"As well as the loss of profits to shareholders, the failure was also linked to the redundancy of 10% of its workforce (approx. 10,000 employees)."

Despite the regulatory requirements, a small number of companies that still use animals have recognized the inefficacy of animal tests. According to Pharmaxis CEO Alan Robertson, "There are many examples, particularly in the pharmaceutical industry, where, despite extensive animal testing, a new drug substance has gone on to actually do more harm than good in humans. Society expects new medicines to be brought to patients and the patients have a right to expect that those new medicines will improve their clinical condition and not cause undue harm."

Companies that embrace the new non-animal technologies will be better placed

Clearly, companies that embrace the new non-animal technologies will be better placed in the long term as the community becomes more aware and makes ethical choices. Consider, for example, the growing interest in ethical investments, humane charities and humane slaughter practices for food consumption and the growing demand for free-range as opposed to factory-produced pork and eggs.

The onus is clearly on companies to exert pressure on regulatory bodies by lobbying

for acceptance of more ethical and scientifically-valid safety tests. Importantly though, while we may not expect companies to lobby on the basis of ethical concerns, we can ask of our companies that they consider the bottom line.

As a shareholder and therefore owner, we can voice our concerns to company representatives directly. Change is often highly dependent on the strength of demand for that change.

This is frequently driven by better returns to shareholders sourced in no small way (for these drug companies at least), by more accurate and transferable testing, leading to lower chance of failure, quicker time to market and ultimately quicker returns on investment. Because there is a softer reason too, ie the elimination of animal testing is a more ethical, cruelty-free and humane result, companies can also apply all these reasons to justify changes in their methods.

Perhaps such demands for change by smaller investors will result in larger investment companies and fund managers tightening their screening of the pharmaceutical companies in which they invest, and in the long term, a move toward more ethical and progressive medical research.

Update

AAHR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thank you to those members who attended our Annual General Meeting on 25th March 2009.

We are pleased to announce that our special resolution to accept the new draft constitution was passed by a 75 per cent majority vote.

The new committee for 2008/2009 are:

President:	Paul Crossley
Vice President:	Steph Geddes
Hon. Treasurer:	Miles O'Connor
Hon. Secretary:	Brian Gardiner
Committee Member:	Sarah Gardiner
Committee Member:	Eliza Poulton
Committee Member:	Cheryl Veitch

INDONESIA: the trade in primates for research

Extensive investigations reveal a disturbing trade in primates from Indonesia for the research industry. Join Sarah Kite, Director of Special Projects, BUAV, for this special report.

The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV), is calling for Indonesia to be suspended from the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The call comes following a major, in-depth investigation carried out by the BUAV that has revealed a disturbing trade in primates from Indonesia for the international research industry. The BUAV believes the findings show that not only are international animal welfare guidelines being violated, but that Indonesia is also breaching its own legislation as well as failing to comply with CITES regulations.

BUAV's investigation follows the chain of cruelty and suffering inflicted on monkeys (in particular the long-tailed macaque or *Macaca fascicularis*) during their capture, holding and transportation within Indonesia, their export overseas and eventual fate in the research laboratory. Each year, thousands of monkeys, packed into small wooden crates, are shipped as cargo by

Philippine Airlines, Korean Air and China Southern Airlines to research facilities around the world, including the USA, China and Japan. Major breaches in international animal welfare guidelines set by the International Primatological Society were uncovered. These included wild-caught monkeys kept in appalling conditions at dealers' premises; monkeys crammed into makeshift and dilapidated transit crates on trucks; and poor conditions at primate supply and breeding companies where monkeys were kept in barren concrete pens that were inappropriate for their complex behavioral and psychological needs.

In 1994, the Indonesian government imposed a ban on the export of wild-caught primates for the research industry; wild-caught primates could be used as a breeding stock but only captive bred animals were allowed to be exported. The BUAV, however, believes this "ban" to be a sham.



"Every year thousands of monkeys from Indonesia are exported around the world to countries such as the USA, Japan and China where they will suffer and probably die in research laboratories" (BUAV).

Through a lack of enforcement by the Indonesian authorities and the use of misleading source codes for CITES export permits, the BUAV believes that wild-caught monkeys continue to be exported and end up in the international research industry. In some cases, wild-caught monkeys have simply been removed from one location in Indonesia and placed on islands under conditions no different from their original homes. Subsequently, wild primates who are living and breeding freely in a natural environment are being designated as captive-born animals by the Indonesian authorities in an apparent attempt to avoid the restrictions that would otherwise be placed on the trade by CITES and by its own legislation.

Furthermore, BUAV's investigation has uncovered a lack of validity and objectivity used in primate population surveys. Interviews with at least one official from LIPI, the Indonesian CITES Scientific Authority, show that certain population surveys have been conducted by third parties based on speculation, on the counting of monkeys in protected areas and the use of scientifically invalid extrapolation methods. These surveys have been used by the authorities as the basis for deciding whether and how many macaques can be taken annually from the wild to be used by the research industry within Indonesia or as breeding stock for primate supply companies. The trapping quota for 2009 has jumped threefold to over 15,000 monkeys.



All photos courtesy BUAV
<http://www.buav.org/chainofsuffering/>

How you can help:

Please support the BUAV in its campaign to end the cruel exploitation of macaques in Indonesia.

1

Write to the President of Indonesia to ask him to place an immediate ban on the capture, breeding and export of long-tailed and pig-tailed macaques destined for the research industry.

Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
 President of the Republic of Indonesia
 Istana Negara
 Jl. Medan Merdeka Utara
 Jakarta Pusat 10010
 Indonesia
 Email: presiden@ri.go.id

2

Write letters to the Indonesian embassy in Australia calling on the government of Indonesia to place an immediate ban on the capture, breeding and export of long-tailed and pig-tailed macaques destined for the research industry.

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
 8 Darwin Avenue,
 Yarralumla, ACT 2600
 AUSTRALIA

Fax : (+61 2) 6273 6017
 email : indonemb@kbri-canberra.org.au,
indonemb@bigpond.com

3

Write to the CITES Secretariat requesting that CITES suspends Indonesia's membership while it carries out its own investigation of the primate trade:

CITES Secretariat
 International Environment House
 11 Chemin des Anémones
 CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
 Switzerland

4

As Australia has been the recipient of macaques imported from Indonesia, please write to the CITES Enforcement Authority below asking it to ban the import of primates originating from Indonesia following concerns raised by the BUAV's investigation that Indonesia is failing to comply with CITES regulations.

International Wildlife Trade
 Department of the Environment, Water,
 Heritage and the Arts
 G.P.O. Box 787
 CANBERRA, ACT 2601

5

Write to the headquarters of following airlines requesting that they adopt a policy to stop transporting primates from

Indonesia for the research industry. Please also write to the airline's office in your own country.

Mr Cho Yangho
 CEO and Chairman
 Korean Air
 1370, Gonghang-dong, Gangseo-gu
 Seoul, 157-712
 South Korea

Mr Lucio Tan
 Chairman and CEO
 Philippine Airlines
 Philippine Airlines Center
 Legazpi Street Legaspi Village
 Makati 0750
 Philippines

Mr. Shao Yong Liu ,
 Chairman
 China Southern Airlines
 Jichang Road
 Guangzhou, 510405
 China



"At the Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia, young monkeys were housed in these barren metal cages, totally inappropriate for their needs. Primates require a complex, stimulating environment for their psychological well-being: (BUAV)"

Become a member before June 30 2009 & receive a fabulous AAHR Stop Animal Experiments shopping bag!

AAHR's important work to end animal experiments is totally dependent on the generosity of our members and supporters.

Your membership is crucial to us – not only financially, but to give us greater strength when lobbying for change. The larger our member base is the more influence we have in discussions with decision-makers.

Please don't delay JOIN OR DONATE TODAY! We need you, but more importantly— 7 million animals* need you!

Thank you for your support.

*Number of animals used in research and teaching in Australia per year.



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Email: _____

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☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 \$.....Other

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☐ \$25

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Phone: 03 8823 5705

Fax: 03 8823 5755

Email: info@aahr.org.au

Online: www.aahr.org.au



Please note new address and contact details!