

## CFAAR: WHO WE ARE

*CFAAR is a non-profit educational organization which originally formed in 1988 on the University of California-Berkeley campus. The organization formed in response to the activities which were attempting to discredit animal research and animal researchers. Several local CFAAR chapters have since sprung up across the country. These groups share the following objectives:*

- 1) To organize faculty, students, and staff at institutions in Arizona in which animal research is performed so effective letter writing campaigns can be initiated quickly.*
- 2) To educate the public in general and the campus in particular about the true nature of animal research and animal researchers.*
- 3) To support responsible and humane use of animals in biomedical research.*

*We hold the belief that a well-informed public will make and support laws which provide an appropriate level of regulation over animal research. To this end, our main goal will be to implement a public awareness campaign centered around the above objectives. In order to ensure that the public receives an accurate picture of biomedical research. Our major effort will be to correct distortions about animal research as presented by animal activist groups. We hope you will join us in our campaign.*

## **ANIMAL RESEARCH -- THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

Have the contributions of animal research reached a point of diminishing returns? What has animal research done for us lately?

In a review of some major medical stories reported in the lay press during 1990, we became convinced that animal research is a stunningly vibrant and remarkably productive area of endeavor. Examples abound in such publications as **The New York Times**, **The Washington Post**, **The Wall Street Journal** and, we are certain, in other publications as well.

A sampling of headline-makers, to whet your appetite, is listed. More details on these stories are available, for those inclined to in-depth research.

**January:** "Nerve Protein Raises Hope for Paralyzed"; experimental drug may inhibit progression of arthritis (Times).

**February:** A temporary lung-assist device begins clinical trials (Times); progress in understanding sleep apnea is made in studies on bulldogs (Post); a mouse model is developed for chronic myelogenous leukemia (Post).

**March:** Treatment of spinal cord injury with methylprednisolone may prevent paralysis (Post).

**April:** Development of techniques to genetically "design" mice offers remarkable promise for biology (Times).

**May:** Use of synthetic interleukin 1 in mice prevents rejection of transplanted tissue; fetal surgery saves the life of a child with a diaphragmatic hernia (Times).

**June:** A cloned AIDS virus causes AIDS in primates; clinical testing begins on muscle cell transplantation to help muscular dystrophy; use of hypertension medicine to treat cancer shows promise; studies progress on understanding post-traumatic stress disorder, which afflicts combat veterans and crime victims (all reported in the Times).

**August:** Unusual animal models offer insights into a variety of disorders (Discover); nematode research is revealing information

about the human aging process (The Wall Street Journal); use of animals in toxicology testing is still necessary, comment both Bruce Ames and animal rightist Neal Barnard (Post).

**September:** Injection of insulin-producing cells into thymus glands of rats was successful, promising a potential new transplant technique; use of advanced diagnostic and treatment techniques derived from human medicine is increasingly common in veterinary practice; high doses of vitamin A may help prevent certain types of cancer; alleviation of Parkinsonian symptoms in primates by surgery is a promising break-through in studying this disease (all reported in the Times); scientists were able to correct the genetic defect of cystic fibrosis by injecting normal genes, and have begun to develop a much needed animal model for CF (Post).

**October:** Injection of mice with a common bacterium resulted in development of a Parkinson's-like condition, promising an important animal model for Parkinson's disease (Discover); reports of Thomas and Murray's award of the Nobel prize in Medicine included reference to their animal work and their support of animal research (Post, Times, Reuters); in the face of controversy over rodent carcinogenicity testing, use of the rodent assay is acknowledged to remain essential (Newsweek); development of materials that can be used as artificial bone is promising for orthopedic surgery (Times); a vaccine for Lyme disease is on the horizon (Post).

**November:** The FDA approved gene therapy developed in mice for use in limited human clinical studies to treat advanced melanoma (Post, Journal); clot-preventing and dissolving agents, being tested and obtained from animals, will help heart attack victims (The Wall Street Journal).

**December:** A new compound has been shown in primate and rodent studies to

block reproduction of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (Times).

## HOW CAN I SUPPORT ANIMAL RESEARCH?

### Educate Yourself

You don't have to become an expert on every aspect of animal research and testing, but it does help to become familiar with commonly asked questions and answers. Find out about animal research at your institution, and learn what contributions your institution has made. Know your institution's animal care policies.

### Get Involved with Your Local Schools

If you have a child in school, you already have a link to teachers and the administration. If not, remember that teachers are eager for speakers who can talk to students about their careers, science or medicine. Many schools would love to have a scientist "adopt-a-classroom" or offer to serve as mentor for interested students.

### Give a Presentation to a Community Group

Start with groups you already know. Are you a member of the PTA, a church group, civic organization, or voluntary health chapter?

Business and service organizations are always looking for speakers for their meetings. Groups like the Kiwanis, Rotary, Shriners and Lions clubs are "naturals" for pro-research talks since they are already active in funding eye care, hospitals and medical research. Often, one speaking engagement will lead to another.

Be sure to relate your talk to their concerns. How will they be affected if animal research comes to a halt?

### Educate Your Elected Officials

The conflict over the use of animals for research, testing and education is increasingly waged at the state and local levels. Your elected officials need to know why this is an important issue for their constituents, how your community is affected by this issue and how they can support you.

Make an appointment to meet with members of Congress (when they are in town) and the representatives in your state legislature. If it's not possible to meet with the member, arrange to speak with an aide who handles this issue.

Send a follow-up letter expressing thanks for the visit and summarizing your main points. Be sure to offer your help. Keep your representatives informed with letters and articles.

Know what legislation your representatives introduce, cosponsor and vote for. Let them know how you feel about these bills. Support them when they support research!

### **Write a Letter to the Editor**

A letter to the editor is an excellent way to inform other members of your community of the value of animal research. The letter can be either proactive - regarding the importance of animal research, or reactive - correcting misinformation about animal research contained in a previous letter to the editor.

Remember, it's just as important to represent the pro-research view in a local community paper, which many of your neighbors read, as in the national press. Many legislators also keep files of letters to the editor to see how their constituents feel about issues. Some guidelines for a letter to the editor are:

Identify your topic. Was there a recent breakthrough involving animal research? Has someone prominent spoken recently about the importance of animal research.

Do you have a friend or family member who has been helped because of animal research, or is there a local sports star recovering from a serious injury?

Make it short and simple, about 100-250 words. Remember to speak to your audience. Most people (like researchers) care about the treatment of animals, but they also want to know that up-to-date medical care will be available for their families.

### **Phone in to a Radio or TV Talk Show**

If you know that a phone-in program will be covering animal research, it's very easy to call in and make a statement in support of animal research. Think about what you will say beforehand. Try to make only one statement that builds on a pro or con point made in the discussion.

Call in early in the program. You will probably be put on hold until a break. If the line is busy, keep redialing.

Don't be afraid to dispute what was stated. If someone on the show is giving false or misleading information about animal use, correct it!

### **Express Your Thanks**

If a television station, local or network, shows the Koop Public Service Announcements or has a well-balanced talk show on animal research or testing; if a radio station takes care to report animal rights and research activities in a balanced way including the pro-research perspective; if your paper runs an editorial or op-ed piece favorable to animal research; if your legislator sponsors legislation favorable to research, or makes comments indicating support -- thank them!

Don't let the animal rightists be the only ones heard. (We know of at least two cases where TV stations pulled the Koop PSAs from the air because they heard from a number of people opposed to the messages and from nobody who supported them.)

## **World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week 1991 Addenda**

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) vandalized an entrance to the BioMedical Center at Brown University on Friday, April 19. It was the fourth such incident to occur at the center within three weeks. The slogan "The ALF is Watching You," was written in black marker on a door and the words "Animals Are Not Tools For Research. Stop Animal Research" appeared at the same location in the same handwriting the prior weekend.

Dr James Harper, director of the animal care facility said that security around the center has been increased and a new key-card lock system, which was planned before these incidents occurred, has been installed. According to the Brown Daily Herald, Harper added that the university had "gotten off lightly" as far as the damage to university property is concerned and that he could not speculate whether or not these incidents were a prelude to a break-in. "Whether the point of the vandalism is to strike fear into the hearts of people, or panic, or worry, I don't know. I refuse to have my life run by terrorist threats."

A psychology laboratory at Colorado University (CU) in Boulder was broken into on April 12; only a note requesting a facility tour was left. The Colorado Daily said this and other incidents of graffiti and messages left in campus labs had heightened concern about potential extremist acts in connection with World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week. No additional problems actually occurred. In response to the break-in, CU Chancellor James Corbridge issued a press statement reinforcing the importance of animals in research and the University's commitment to "ethical humane treatment" of these animals.

(NABR Update, Vol Xii, No 14, May 31, 1991)

## **Survey Comes Up With Profile of Typical Animal Rights Advocate**

Members of anti-hunting, animal rights organizations are likely to be female, well-educated, affluent and pet owners who have no children at home, according to a survey presented to the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

The animal rights advocate profile was based on research done by Rebecca T. Richards of California State University, Sacramento, and Richard S. Krannich of Utah State University, Logan.

Their data was based on 1,020 surveys mailed to subscribers of The Animal's Agenda, which is considered the nation's leading independent animals rights publication, they said.

There were 853 completed questionnaires returned, a response rate of 84 percent. The researchers found:

The East and West Coasts are over-represented with animal rights advocates, while there is a smaller percentage of Southerners in the sample, compared with 1980 population data.

78.3 percent of the animal rights advocates are female and 56.6 percent are age 30 to 49, compared with 24 percent of the general population in that age group.

Three-quarters live in urban areas, about the national average.

49 percent have incomes of more than \$50,000 a year while another 42 percent make more than \$20,000, compared with national figures of 4.6 percent and 37 percent.

71 percent have no living children and 84 percent have no children at home; 89 percent have pets and the mean is 4.7 pets per respondent. There are no comparable census data for these figures.

Sizeable majorities are pro environment, anti-war and pro women and civil rights. Only 25 percent favored what were

called "conservative" causes, such as anti-abortion or school prayer efforts.

### **ALF Strikes at Oregon State University**

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) has claimed responsibility for the June 10 fire and vandalism at Oregon State University's (OSU) mink research farm. The ALF fire, which was reported at approximately 4:30 a.m., destroyed a barn used to store feed and small equipment. Structural damage to the barn is estimated at \$62,000. In an adjoining laboratory office, ALF members destroyed research records, emptied files and broke a toilet, flooding the office. Graffiti spray painted on the office walls read, "This is the beginning," "Concentration camp for animals" and "No where to hide - ALF is watching." OSU officials said no animals were missing or injured. In its news release left outside the Portland bureau of the Associated Press, ALF stated that OSU "was targeted due to its role in the barbaric

fur trade." ALF warned they would continue "until the last fur farm is burnt to the ground." The ALF statement was written on stationary from the university's animal science department.

The mink farm opened in 1920 as a branch of the state department of fish and wildlife. In the early 1950s, OSU took over the mink facility and today carries out reproductive and nutrition research with an annual budget of \$50,000. The farm houses approximately 1,300 animals (about 250 breeding females with kits) in eight separate structures. According to the OSU officials, while all the animals are research subjects, none are killed or harmed as part of the research. The research is reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. When the research is concluded at the age of about 7 months, the minks are euthanatized. The annual sale of the pelts raises about \$20,000 which is used to support the farm's research. (NABR Update, Vol XII, No 15, June 17, 1991)

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### **CFAAR: Donation Form and Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: (Campus, if available)

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty ( )      Staff ( )      Student ( )      Other ( )

I have enclosed a contribution of \$5 \$10 \$20 \$50 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**A subscription to CFAAR News is included with your donation.**

Make checks payable to **CFAAR** and return to: **CFAAR, University of Arizona, Bldg 101, Tucson, AZ, 85721**