

# Coalition For Animals & Animal Research

## CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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To join the Arizona CFAAR, please fill out the membership form on the back page. Donations publish our newsletter and educational materials. A year's subscription is included with your contribution.

**Time To Renew Your Membership for 2004 - See form on last page**

### CFAAR: Who We Are

CFAAR is a nonprofit educational organization which formed in response to activists who were attempting to discredit animal research and animal researchers in 1988. Several local CFAAR chapters have since sprung up across the country. These groups share the following objectives:

- 1) To **organize** students, faculty, and staff at institutions where 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.

The first of these objectives will be the primary function of the group. As legislation is introduced that affects animal research, we need to respond so our representatives know exactly how we, the people, want them to vote. Accordingly, through our newsletter, we will help inform you about legislation and other "happenings" concerning attacks on animal research. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible to contact your Washington, D.C. representatives.

The key to the effectiveness of this organization is you! We need your willingness to write an occasional letter, perhaps talk with a school group and, of course, give a few dollars to cover the cost of printing the newsletter and educational materials.

**HELP SUPPORT CFAAR  
SO WE CAN SUPPORT YOU**

### Campus-Wide Security Update

Wednesday, April 12: 11 -1 p.m.  
UMC's Duval Auditorium

This meeting will be held for all persons involved in biomedical research in order to prepare for April **World Week for Animals In Labs** (April 17-26, 2004)

Topics to be covered will be: UA History with Protests, Vandalism, and Break-ins; How to Handle Suspicious Mail; Personal Safety Advice; Internet Security, etc

It is recommended that this meeting be mandatory for all new employees (anyone who was not here last April) and that each lab send at least one representative.

Questions? Call 621-3931

### Animal Rights Group Sued by Chiron Corp.

By Josh Richman

Emeryville biotech firm Chiron Corp. on Wednesday sued animal-rights activists who have targeted the company, asking a judge to order a halt to actions that have "moved from harassment and intimidation to full-blown terrorism." The lawsuit claims that after months of making threatening phone calls and visits to employees' homes, vandalizing employees' private property, and so forth, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA (SHAC USA) had a hand in last August's bombing of Chiron's headquarters. "On information and belief, Chiron alleges that the FBI has linked the person suspected of carrying out the bombings, a man named Daniel Andres [alias- San Diego], to SHAC USA's president, Kevin Jonas," the lawsuit says.

FBI Special Agent LaRae Quy wouldn't comment Wednesday other than to note, "We only have charges pending against Mr. San Diego and not against anybody else," although "we do

feel he's had support." Officials in October named Daniel Andreas San Diego, 26, of Sonoma, as a suspect in the Chiron bombing as well as in the September bombing of Shaklee Corp. in Pleasanton. Nobody was hurt in either explosion. San Diego remains a fugitive, considered armed and dangerous, with a reward of \$50,000 offered for information leading to his arrest.

SHAC USA spokeswoman Alex Bailey characterized Chiron's complaint as a "SLAPP suit," a strategic lawsuit against public participation aimed at limiting SHAC's First Amendment rights. "If the Chiron suit looks anything like the other 12 SLAPP suits we've come up against, it's an entire lawsuit based on a guilt-by-association theory that doesn't square with the Constitution," she said. "Never once has there been any judgment against us, and we don't expect there to be one in this case either."

The lawsuit seeks a temporary restraining order -- and later, preliminary and permanent injunctions -- against SHAC. Chiron wants SHAC members forbidden from coming within 50 feet of company property or within 100 feet of employees and their private property; from trespassing on the property of businesses, attorneys or others associated with Chiron; accessing, disseminating or misusing Chiron employees' home phone numbers, home addresses, bank account and credit card numbers or other personal information; calling, e-mailing, threatening or harassing Chiron and its employees; and vandalizing Chiron employees' property. Chiron also wants SHAC to have to post such an order on its Web site.

SHAC exists to protest the work of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), a British company providing laboratory services including animal testing to companies around the world. The group has extended its campaign to target companies that do or have done business with HLS, including Chiron. "Over the past 10 months, SHAC USA members have frequently arrived at employees' homes in the middle of the night wielding bullhorns, spray paint, odiferous chemicals and small 'personal alarms' that emit an earsplitting siren," the lawsuit claims. "They have littered the employees' neighborhoods with leaflets disclosing the employees' personal information and stating that employees are 'puppy killers' or 'terrorists.' "

And this campaign "has been steadily escalating in intensity and ferocity," the suit claims. "SHAC USA's webpage posted the home addresses of several Chiron employees and encouraged its members to vandalize their homes. A Chiron employee had her new car permanently defaced. SHAC USA's Web site posted an employee's personal bank account number. Members of SHAC USA surreptitiously obtained the credit card numbers of two Chiron employees and charged thousands of dollars in fraudulent purchases." But "the cycle of violence and threats reached a new and potentially deadly level" with the Aug. 28, 2003 bombing for which San Diego now is being sought, the suit claims.

(TriValley Herald, 2/26/04)

### **PETA Launches New Anti-research Campaign**

The lead feature on the PETA website today is a new campaign, *AnimalSavingsClub.com*, a sophisticated, detailed website focusing on animal-based research and product testing. Other areas zero in on health charities that fund animal research and pet food companies that do nutritional testing on animals. There is a "Frequently Asked Questions" section which offers a summary of PETA's *Through the Looking Glass* view of the necessity and nature of the use of animals in biomedical research.

A section of the campaign's website details PETA "investigations" of animal research at Columbia University and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill as well as coverage of its ongoing protests at the Palmer Chiropractic University System and Johns Hopkins University.

A new element in the *AnimalSavingsClub.com* campaign is that PETA is trying to get college alumni to stop donating to their schools: "Next time you receive a solicitation from your *alma mater*, use PETA's "Donation Withheld" stickers to indicate that you are withholding your donation until the institution stops cruel animal testing. Try to get former classmates to do the same. Such actions get noted by the development department and will be acted upon as complaints grow. "

Of interest, PETA is referring its followers to the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) website for additional "information colleges and universities that do and

that don't have live animal laboratories." In recent years, PETA and PCRM have taken great pains in showing no connection between the two organizations, despite their common origins, funds and interests.

Among the health charities targeted by PETA as "cruel" and "life-taker" for funding animal-based research-in addition to its perennial target, the March of Dimes-the focus today is on the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, and the British Heart Association. Many more are listed in the materials PETA presents. PETA is working to divert donations from these 60-plus leading medical research charities to its list of charities that have agreed *never* to fund animal research: most of these are groups that are involved exclusively with clinical research or delivery of patient services.

Expect to see AnimalSavingsClub.com to be a key component of PETA's spring efforts on college campuses and during World Week for Animals in Laboratories, April 17-25 (or, as SAEN's Michael Budkie would have it, World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week). AMP will be monitoring all developments and will be in touch with individual institutions or the community at large as situations warrant.

(AMP Advisory, 1/16/04)

### **University Animal Care, Research Labs Designed with Effectiveness, Safety in Mind**

Working in a well-designed laboratory, personnel perform procedures that are designed to optimize quality while lowering the risks of exposure to infectious agents and hazardous substances. It's an ideal, professional work environment, and one worth the recognition of the Walkabout for Biosafety Excellence, performed quarterly by Richard C. Powell, vice president for research, graduate studies and economic development.

Powell recently visited University Animal Care (UAC) Pathology Services and Research Laboratories and found an organization dedicated to effectively managing biological risk. He was able to learn how incorporating health and safety values into laboratory design and operations provides both quality laboratory services as well as leading edge research opportunities for the Institution.

In addition to directing the UAC Pathology Services Laboratory, David Besselsen is the chief of UAC Pathology Services and adjunct associate professor of veterinary science and microbiology. This laboratory provides diagnostic and comparative pathology support to research animal users on campus and quality assurance testing for the research animal facilities at the UA. "Two of the primary goals of the quality assurance activities performed by the laboratory are to prevent entry of pathogenic infectious agents into the research animals and, if entry does occur, to detect infections as expediently as possible," says Besselsen.

Besselsen's independent research has focused on two areas related to the mission of the laboratory: the development and validation of molecular diagnostic techniques to improve detection of rodent pathogens, and the investigation of the epidemiology and pathogenesis of murine parvoviruses, the most commonly detected viruses in contemporary laboratory mouse colonies. As a result, Dr. Besselsen's research laboratory routinely works with the same infectious agents the quality assurance program is designed to keep out of the rodent colonies on campus. Laboratory personnel also handle and process diagnostic samples from research animals that are potentially contaminated.

Besselsen shares the laboratory with two colleagues who use the lab to improve understanding of the health hazards associated with the legacy of Tucson's groundwater pollution. Paula Johnson, assistant veterinary specialist in UAC and adjunct assistant professor, and Ornella Selmin, assistant professor both of veterinary science and microbiology, collaborate on a project investigating the effects of Trichloroethylene (TCE) on heart development as part of the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Basic Research. Dr. Johnson's animal studies indicated TCE and its metabolites can cause congenital heart defects in animals. The research group is now working on understanding the cellular pathways involved in TCE toxicity, with the goal of identifying molecules that might be used as biomarkers of exposure in the environment or targets for the design of therapeutic strategies in the population at risk. The partnership between Selmin and Johnson has allowed a strengthening of their experimental

findings and hopefully a faster move toward applications into related human health problems.

But the partnership is only half the story when it comes to the lab's overall success. Careful planning to consolidate and upgrade UAC Pathology Services, its equipment and personnel to a single location has streamlined processes, improved operational efficiency and safety, and reduced duplication of equipment. The consolidation also improved interaction and productivity of faculty and staff who were geographically isolated from one another. Finally, the research laboratories of Besselsen, Johnson, and Selmin were incorporated.

Now faculty and staff who used to work in various ineffective, isolated locations are able to work in an efficient and flexible laboratory that supports both the campus research community and the UAC quality assurance programs. Safety features were optimization to reduce the risk of infectious disease transmission to both animals and people and exposure to hazardous substances (such as TCE, formaldehyde, etc.)

The laboratory was designed on the basis of numerous criteria that included procedures performed by the combined laboratories, the frequency these procedures were performed, the flow of work and samples within the laboratories, applicable laws and regulations, safety and ergonomic concerns, optimization of the general working environment, and other UAC needs. Multiple designs were evaluated and modified by the faculty and technical staff of the laboratories in concert with UAC husbandry managers, architects, and engineers until an acceptable final design was obtained.

As a result, productivity and morale has improved significantly. Safety and ergonomic features incorporated into the laboratory design along with the policies and standard operating procedures that were in place have made the laboratory a very safe workplace with minimal risk of disease transmission and hazardous chemical exposure. "The health and safety methods used daily by this research group are paramount to the success of the research given the risks of working with environmental toxins such as TCE," said Johnson. Adds Selmin, "From a research standpoint, this new laboratory allows us to work in ideal experimental conditions, where any risk of cross-contamination from sample to sample is minimized and the data obtained are therefore more reliable."

Mark Grushka, institutional biosafety officer, attended the Walkabout for Biosafety and was impressed by the continuing value that comes from investing in a first class facility. "To be competitive as a research institution in this century, we must find ways to integrate quality and effective management of risk into both service and research activities. This lab is accomplishing these things every day," he said.

Conducting periodic laboratory inspections and audits of laboratory activities is performed to ensure compliance with laboratory policies and standard operating procedures. The UAC Pathology Services and Research Laboratory was completed in February 2003 and has met or exceeded the expectations of all personnel involved.

(UA News Service, 2/5/04)

### **Act Aggressively Now to Save Bighorn Sheep**

By Paul Krausman and Brian Jensen

The last remaining desert bighorn sheep herd in the Tucson basin resides in the Silverbell Mountain complex, but for how long? Recent news reports about domestic livestock spreading disease to bighorns in the Silverbells sound alarmingly familiar.

Pima County residents can be proud that the mountains around Tucson once provided habitat for several herds of desert bighorn sheep, including the Santa Catalina's herd in Pusch Ridge and bighorns in the Silverbell Mountains. Both were healthy herds until recent habitat alteration. Pusch Ridge was designated as wilderness, but for that herd, our actions were too little and too late.

Unless swift action is taken, the Silverbell herd, the last in the Tucson area, will start on the same downward spiral toward extinction. Numerous organizations must act together to prevent the herd's extinction. Administrators from Pima and Pinal counties, federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, mine administrators and the public all have to take immediate and aggressive action to minimize the harmful effects of humans on the remaining sheep in the Tucson basin.

My graduate students and I have been studying desert bighorn sheep throughout the Southwest for 25 years, and it is clear desert bighorn sheep are intolerant of human activity.

When humans arrive in bighorn sheep habitat with their plans, toys and good intentions, there is only one winner, and it is not the sheep. Housing developments, resorts, trails, roads, people and habitat alteration literally have choked out the population.

Occasionally, someone still reports seeing a bighorn sheep in the Catalinas, but the population is essentially extinct. There's still a chance, however, for the desert bighorns living in the Silverbell Mountains. In our almost-daily visits to the area in December, we've identified at least 16 blind or partially blind sheep. Immediate intervention can still save these beasts.

Current efforts by the Arizona Game and Fish Department to treat bighorns for the disease that caused the blindness may be successful. We are observing positive results, but the final outcome is weeks, maybe months, away. The blinding disease the sheep have contracted from domestic goats is just the latest blow the sheep have received from humans.

The sheep are already contending with other encroachment into their habitat: ongoing habitat alteration by the Silverbell Mine, the influx of border patrol personnel, drug dealers and illegal immigrants, increased visitation to the Ironwood National Monument, development of nearby resorts and homes and hunting. Without intervention, the combined effects of these activities will clearly drive the population to extinction, just as has happened to desert bighorn populations throughout the urbanizing Southwest.

Several steps need to be taken if there's to be a chance of keeping desert bighorn sheep in the Silverbell Mountains. Domestic stock should be removed immediately, building should be curtailed and visitor activity should be reduced and, in some cases, eliminated. Clearly, hunting will be eliminated as the population declines. If intrusions into the habitat are not curtailed, there will not be any sheep to hunt or to observe.

Desert bighorn sheep might tolerate any one of these activities, but the cumulative effects will leave society with just a memory of what once was. The sheep are an icon of the American Southwest. Anyone who has seen desert bighorns in their native habitat marvels at how they can eek out an existence on the seemingly steep and barren slopes they occupy.

Without aggressive management from all segments of society that affect bighorn sheep, the citizens of Tucson can plan on watching the

sequel to the elimination of bighorn sheep in the Catalinas: Pusch Ridge II.

(AZ Daily Star, 1/12/04)

## **Student Demands Truth about Animal Testing**

By Cara Wieser

Freshman Jeremy Beckham issued a challenge to the U on Tuesday. He wants to debate any U researcher who believes it is moral to experiment on the primates housed at the U. The debate will have to wait until after Beckham takes a stand against U attorney Phyllis Vetter in front of the state Records Committee today. Beckham, a representative for the Utah Primate Freedom Project, plans to show proof to the committee that the U's Animal Resource Center has not provided him with requested documents detailing the animal experimentation.

While Beckham says the documents are public records, U spokesman Coralie Alder claims they "should be kept confidential until such time as the research results are published." Alder said that maintaining confidentiality "also protects the U's intellectual property rights in discoveries generated by the research." Under Utah Government Records Access and Management Act, any citizen is entitled to view any public records. By law, an expedited request must be fulfilled within 10 business days. According to Beckham, who has been filing requests since August 2003, the U hasn't complied, instead sending him only portions of information.

In the case of protocol information, which details the experiments and the effects on the animals, Beckham said "they didn't comply at all." The committee will decide Thursday who has rights to the documents. From the records he did receive, Beckham concluded that many of the primates are isolated-housed in individual cages-which often leads to depression in the animals. "I know for a fact that some of the Macaque monkeys have self-mutilated to the point of missing fingers and toes," he said.

Although Beckham said his main goal is to "get both sides presented" in a debate setting, so far he's had no takers. In fact, all he has to show are files of paperwork documenting his communication with the U, most of which deny his requests. Even if a debate is scheduled, he said, "I don't think there's any other conclusion

except realize primate experimentation is immoral."

Beckham is concerned with two researchers in particular, Richard Siegler and Audie Leventhal. Leventhal summarizes his work on his Web site, saying he studies "the structure, function and development of the visual pathways in normal cats and monkeys..." Beckham is concerned with the way in which the studies are conducted, and without protocol documents, he said he cannot be sure of how the animals are treated.

Leventhal and the Department of Animal Resources did not return phone calls. Although U procedures have not been made clear, often in this type of research, the monkeys' heads are attached to restraining chairs with bolts fastened to their heads, according to protocol documents from the University of California at San Francisco. In an experiment conducted at UCSF, scientists restrain monkeys in "a plastic box that we call a primate chair" with the head of the animal "restricted from moving by fixing the implanted hardware to the ceiling of the chair."

The summary of the experiment can be found online at [crisp.cit.nih.gov](http://crisp.cit.nih.gov) along with the summary of Leventhal's experiment, showing that both propose similar research outlines. Alder said, "At the U, all research is done under the review of numerous federal and local agencies, such as the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, the USDA, National Institutes of Health, and Utah's Department of Health."

Still, without the records, concerned citizens like Beckham can't be sure of what is taking place. "We do not know the details of animal care related to their experimental procedures," Beckham said. Records show that the U experiments on primates - baboons, macaques and marmosets-as young as six months old. The oldest animal in the U's care was born in 1970. Beckham himself is an aspiring biologist. When asked what he would do when faced with animal experimentation in his own research, Beckham said, "If it came down that I absolutely had to do it, I'd switch my major."

## **New Student Fights for Primates**

By Cara Wieser

Kim Bowman's primate freedom tag shows his support for the animals. The fight isn't only between Jeremy Beckham and the U

anymore. Sophomore Kim Bowman, member of the Utah Primate Freedom Project, received his own bill for more than \$200 from the U for requesting details about one of the marmosets housed at the Animal Resource Center. Both students, believing such details to be public information, requested the documents through Utah's open records law under the Government Records Access and Management Act.

Bowman is one of 30 "defenders," each a proud owner of Primate Freedom tags. The steel tags, displayed on a necklace or key chain, have the serial number, birth date, gender, species and location of one of the primates living at the center. Using the number, concerned defenders plan to request further documentation about the treatment of their adopted friend and any experimentation being conducted on the animal.

In a letter displayed on the project's Web site, defenders, like Bowman and Beckham, ask the U for "all laboratory reports, protocols, daily care logs, veterinary reports, photographs, videotapes" pertaining to the specific primate. However, lofty fees imposed by the U have successfully ground further requests from the group to a halt. Beckham asked other members to hold their letters until he has dealt with his and Bowman's fees in a legal setting.

U attorney Phyllis Vetter sent Bowman the same form letter she sent Jeremy Beckham, charging them both for "legal review," "technical review," and "physical redaction." After battling Beckham in front of the State Records Committee in January, Vetter and the U retained a right to charge a fee for copies and for employing someone to review the documents. Beckham and other members of the project never thought the documents would be so costly, however, and plan to appeal the fees even if they have to take the battle back to the committee. Vetter did not return phone calls.

By purchasing a tag for \$10, each defender accepted an oath to wear the tag to publicly display his or her outrage of primate captivity and experimentation. "The University of Utah and the vivisectors who they employ may consider primates to be furry test tubes for their disposal, but we view them as intelligent, sentient individuals with minds of their own," the oath states. "Using primates in unconsenting experimentation is no more ethical or appropriate than using human children."

(Daily UT Chronicle, 1/15/04 & 3/2/04)

## **Anti-PETA Ads Are Abused on Metro**

By Donna De Marco

Ads taking PETA to task for opposing animal testing have been getting a lot of attention on Metro. They have been ripped down and defaced since earlier this month, when they began appearing in about 700 Metrorail cars. The Center for Consumer Freedom, a Washington-based coalition of food companies, restaurants and tavern operators, and a longtime opponent of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, paid \$60,000 for the ads to run until the middle of next month.

Metro officials have been replacing some of the damaged posters every night. "Whenever political ads run, if people have strong opinions that differ from the ads, we get people that deface them," said Metro spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein. "Unfortunately for PETA fans, [Metro] is replacing" the defaced posters, said Mike Burita, a spokesman for the coalition. The ad has a picture of a lab rat next to a picture of a sick child. It includes a quote from PETA President Ingrid Newkirk: "Even if animal research resulted in a cure for AIDS, we'd be against it." The ad also highlights PETA's boycotts of charities such as the March of Dimes and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation because they may use animals in medical research.

Jeff Kerr, general counsel for PETA, said Consumer Freedom falsely attributed the quote in the ad to Ms. Newkirk and that part of it was taken out of context. "The entire attack on us is a false scenario," Mr. Kerr said. "We take this attack as a sign of our effectiveness."

Consumer Freedom has received hundreds of e-mail messages -- from supporters and opponents. One person wrote: "Kudos for your PETA ad and other efforts. It's about time people with common sense fight back. ..." A PETA supporter wrote: "I love PETA. Someone has to care about animals. How can anyone agree with animal testing? They should use prisoners. ... Leave the little helpless animals alone." "There's a growing awareness among the public that animal testing is unnecessary, outdated and unreliable," Mr. Kerr said.

The ads direct viewers to Consumer Freedom's Web site, where they will find a section dedicated to the group's fight against PETA. In the past year, the group has run anti-PETA TV ads on national cable and in local

markets as well as a print ad in Time magazine. This is the first Consumer Freedom ad to run on Metro property. "People inside the Beltway are well-read and know about issues," Mr. Burita said. "We thought this would be a good venue to try out." Mr. Burita said the ad has generated the biggest response from any of its local or regional campaigns.

(Washington Times, 2/18/04)

## **State Legislative Roundup**

### **Research Facility Protection/Eco-Terrorism**

In Arizona, both the House and the Senate have introduced bills on this issue. HB 2367 would create penalties for those who finance, assist, or otherwise engage in acts of animal and ecological terrorism and would create a registry of animal and ecological terrorists. Meanwhile, SB 1081 would create the crime of animal and ecological terrorism and would allow a person or ecological terrorist organization to be charged under this crime. It would also require the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) to create and maintain a Web site devoted to tracking animal and ecological terrorists and their actions. These bills would strengthen Arizona's current statute on research facility protection, since it does not address acts of terrorism, nor does it mandate any registry.

(NABR Update, 2/18/04)

## **Dog Tests Provide Alzheimer's Hope**

By Mike Lafferty

A special diet combined with physical and mental exercise halted a pre-Alzheimer's condition in elderly dogs in California, and the animals actually improved. "That really startled us," said Carl Cottman, a neuroscientist at the University of California at Irvine and a researcher on the project. But while scientists appear to be able to delay or reverse Alzheimer's in a few dozen beagles, it will take a \$40 million study and 4,000 volunteers to see whether it works for people.

Cottman, who has conducted the canine research for the past six years, thinks it will. He uses modest doses of vitamins E and C, alpha lipoic acid and acetylcarnitine two - supplements sold in health-food stores - as well as fruits and vegetables in his own diet. "Seeing is believing.

It's pretty hard not to," Cottman said in an interview yesterday at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual meeting. "Some entrepreneur will probably make a breakfast cereal out of this."

Cottman wants to test the supplements on humans with a large-scale, multiyear study. The results add support to common-sense beliefs that diet and exercise will extend a healthy life. "Exercise your brain the same way you exercise your muscles," said Ben Wolozin, an Alzheimer's researcher at the Loyola University medical school in Chicago. "Do crossword puzzles. If you exercise your mind and body, that's good."

Delaying or cutting the rate of Alzheimer's in America's aging population could save billions in health-care costs. Susan Resnick, a researcher at the National Institute on Aging, said hormone therapy in postmenopausal women shows promise of delaying Alzheimer's, as does testosterone therapy in men.

Wolozin is investigating the connection between cholesterol and the formation of improperly folded proteins, called amyloids, that are thought to be connected to the onset of Alzheimer's. In a study released at the meeting yesterday, scientists at the National Institute on Aging suggest the course of Alzheimer's might be arrested by limiting the accumulation of cholesterol in the brain. Cholesterol and another fat known as ceramide have been linked with Alzheimer's. The two fats are thought to cause brain cells to degenerate. In turn, the amyloid proteins increase oxidation in the brain and appear to increase the accumulation of cholesterol and ceramide.

The beagles' regimen actually caused a decline by 40% of amyloids in their brains, according to Cottman. The beagles were tested by showing them three objects and then replacing one item to learn whether they could identify the new object. The tests were made increasingly difficult with time. The dogs also were given an enrichment program of numerous walks, kennel mates and new toys. Although the dogs varied in their intelligence, every dog showed improvement beginning as early as six months. Improvements have continued with time.

Antioxidants in the diet are key, Cottman says. The brain uses 20% of the oxygen in the human body. "It's burning like crazy," he said. "It's many things hitting the brain cells at once. Nerve cells are being pounded by greater and greater

insults. If you stop one of them, they can reset themselves."

(Columbus Dispatch, 2/16/04)

### **Court Agrees with NABR - Dismisses Primate Case Filed by ALDF and AWI**

Today the U.S. District Court in Northern California issued a ruling agreeing with NABR and the USDA that the primate regulation lawsuit filed by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) and the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) in San Francisco lacks merit and must be dismissed in its entirety. The ALDF/AWI suit sought to have the court force USDA to issue new AWA regulations allegedly needed to promote the psychological well-being of primates by addressing physical environment, social grouping, enclosures, and other issues.

U.S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton granted the motion to dismiss the case by accepting arguments made by NABR after NABR successfully intervened in the case. The dismissal was with prejudice which means the case cannot be filed again anywhere in the United States. Because the consequences of an unfavorable outcome in this case would have cost the research community potentially millions of dollars and would not have provided any measurable benefits to research animals, NABR intervened in the case to ensure the research community's interests were protected. NABR argued the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decision in 2000 which upheld the current regulations governing the psychological well-being of primates, 7 CFR §§ 3.81, which clearly established that USDA was under no duty to revise the regulations or to finalize the draft Policy.

At a hearing on December 17, 2003, Judge Hamilton said she had been inclined to deny USDA's motion to dismiss, but was reconsidering her position after allowing NABR to intervene and hearing arguments. Today the Court agreed with NABR and USDA noting that in order to establish a right to judicial review under the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), courts examine an agency's congressional delegation of authority to determine whether there is a mandatory duty to act. The Court stated that "the plaintiffs fail to establish that the Secretary has genuinely failed to meet this statutory duty." The

Court further noted that “plaintiffs have cited no authority prohibiting the Secretary from changing her position on the need for further policy developments in light of the Circuit Court’s approval of the 1991 regulations.”

Immediately prior to NABR’s intervention, USDA and the Plaintiffs had agreed that the case should proceed to a decision based on the facts alleged by the Plaintiffs. NABR is pleased that through its intervention the Plaintiffs’ fast-moving train was stopped and then derailed. We will provide additional information about the judges ruling after we have had a chance to more thoroughly review the court’s decision.

(NABR Alert, 3/2/04)

### **The Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research - SwAEBR**

The progress of biomedical research is threatened by the growing scientific illiteracy of the public and, in particular, our young people. Opinion polls have shown that most adults do not understand the process of bringing basic research into applications that directly benefit their health and well-being. Biological science education is in serious trouble as indicated by the rapid decline in numbers of college students graduating with degrees in biomedical science. Education of the general public, our young people and their teachers is of vital importance to the future of science and biomedical research.

Science teachers in the elementary, middle and high schools must be provided information on the relevancy of animal research and the roles that animals play in scientific and medical progress. At all levels of society, the facts concerning the process of medical discovery must be instilled. Without exposure to the truth concerning research, many of our next generations will be deceived into believing that biomedical research, particularly that involving animals, is unnecessary.

**Mission** - SwAEBR has been formed with the specific mission of developing and implementing a strong proactive campaign to educate school children, as well as the general public, in the vital role biomedical research plays in their everyday lives. The Association will disseminate information necessary to improve the public’s understanding of how responsible and humane animal research has led to significantly

improved health care for man and his animal companions.

**Friends of SwAEBR:** Individuals may support the Association through honorary membership known as Friends of SwAEBR. Friends are not required to pay dues, not entitled to vote, and have access to all services and programs sponsored by the Association.

### **How Can You Help?**

**Provide financial support** -For general support, production of educational resources and sponsorship of the summer internship program.

- C \$25 helps sponsor educational materials for the classroom
- C \$50 sponsors a game for a class of students
- C \$100 thanks teachers for getting their students involved in the essay contest
- C \$250 helps pay for videos to be used by in classrooms
- C \$500 sponsors awards for one of the regional science fairs
- C \$1100 sponsors a student in the summer internship program

**Serve on our speakers bureau** - Speakers are frequently requested for classroom and organization presentations. This increases the visibility of your company, SwAEBR, as well as educating the public.

### **How Will Your Company Benefit?**

- \*Your website can be linked through our actively viewed webpage.
- \*Satisfaction of contributing to the education of promoting biomedical research.
- \*Through sponsoring the essay contest winners your company directly affects the workforce of tomorrow by enhancing their interest in science and technology.

To become a Friend of SwAEBR go to: [http://www.swaebr.org/Friends\\_Application.htm](http://www.swaebr.org/Friends_Application.htm)

### **For more information:**

See the website at: [www.swaebr.org](http://www.swaebr.org)

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**Coalition For Animals & Animal Research - CFAAR  
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