Monkeys at UW Continue to Suffer and Die as a Result of Negligence and Poor Training

The USDA has yet to issue the results of their open investigation into the causes of the university’s many violations of the Animal Welfare Act. The investigation has been ongoing for over two and a half years. According to internal records acquired by AFAE, the university has a PR team in place ready to spin whatever the results might be.

The threat of a monetary fine and some negative publicity do not seem to have reduced the problems in the labs.

We recently filed a formal complaint with the USDA over what seem to be multiple matter-of-fact violations of the (woefully weak) Animal Welfare Act.

The October 8, 2012 Grad School’s animal research oversight committee’s Closed Session minutes reported that:

Two Wisconsin Primate Center veterinarians injured a monkey so seriously during a liver biopsy that they elected to kill him or her. This suggests that the veterinarians involved were not adequately trained.

In a separate case, two monkeys died as a result of an adverse response to the intravenous use of an anesthetic that was not a standard or recommended drug for monkeys. The experiment had nothing to do with the anesthetic. The committee should have known that the product was not a recommended drug for use in rhesus macaques. After the first monkey’s death, the use of this product should have been immediately suspended.

Three staff members of the Wisconsin Primate Center failed repeatedly to identify a female rhesus monkey and repeatedly caged her with a male monkey she didn’t know; as a result, she was repeatedly injured by him. Her actual cage mate suffered so much anguish from the loss of his only friend that he began injuring himself. A veterinarian then failed to properly identify him and overdosed him with an anti-inflammatory drug for his self inflicted wounds.

This repeated negligence reinforces our feeling that there is a culture of blasé disregard for animals in the university labs.

Negligence or a failure to follow standard protocols led to yet another monkey escaping from his/her cage. Two other monkeys opened the partition separating them. One of those mon-
Acting on a body of evidence that led most other nations to ban the harmful experimental use of chimpanzees (many years earlier), the National Academy of Sciences issued a report in late 2011 arguing that chimpanzees should not be used in harmful experiments and that the standard captive environment is detrimental to their well-being.

Earlier this year, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) -- the owner of most of the chimpanzees used in research and the source of most funding for experiments using them -- issued its own report and concurred with essentially all of the Academy’s recommendations. The NIH decision is a watershed event in the fight for animals’ rights; it is a victory that came in spite of many vivisectors and pro-vivisection organizations like UW-Madison writing in opposition.

Though they both hedge their positions, both the National Academy and the NIH have published formal opinions stating that they recognize that the emotional and cognitive characteristics shared by chimpanzees and humans make their traditional use in biomedical research unethical.

In a parallel and perhaps even more stunning moment in our movement’s progress is the news from May 2013 that India’s Ministry of Environment and Forests has declared dolphins “non-human persons.” The ministry has advised state governments to reject any proposal to establish a dolphinarium “by any person/persons, organizations, government agencies, private or public enterprises that involves import, capture of cetacean species to establish for commercial entertainment, private or public exhibition and interaction purposes whatsoever.”

Progress is being made. The Dane County ban on the exhibitions of elephants last year was part of this rising tide of awareness that we share our planet with other fully conscious sensitive beings who deserve our respect and concern and who have the right to be treated as our neighbors instead of mere things.
Hannah West Says Goodbye to Simply Vegan Fans

_AFAE bids fond (semi) adieu to Hannah West, vegan promoter extraordinaire._

The successful Mad City Vegan Fest was the brain child of Hannah West, who asked _AFAE_ three years ago to help her stage an event in Madison that would bring together area vegans, vegetarians, merchants, restaurants, and everyone else curious about veganism. Hannah’s excitement at the prospect proved infectious, and volunteers were quick to commit to the project which has quickly grown and attracted speakers and participants from around the country.

Hannah is pursuing a degree in music education, and will soon start student teaching. _AFAE_ wishes her much luck and success and knows that she will continue to have a positive impact on her students or anyone who otherwise gets to know her.

Hannah has written and produced _AFAE_’s Simply Vegan online newsletter for the past three years. We want to share some of her parting thoughts with you:

“Let’s use each other as resources so that our veganism may be the most compassionate veganism possible. And, to that end, I hope that you continue to practice self-care. You are a human animal, and you deserve compassion.”

“I am so grateful to the Alliance or this opportunity. Lynn and Rick gave me the opportunity for my dream job before I even graduated college. They took me from a vegan to a vegan activist, they gave me space to do what I’d only ever thought I could do at some point later in my life. They trusted me enough to let me create the parameters. They never made me feel young or small or incapable. I always felt seen. I always felt valued.”

Monkeys at UW (Continued from page 1)

keys received multiple lacerations from the other monkey as a result.

Taken together, or even individually, these events show that staff at the Wisconsin Primate Research Center, including researchers, veterinarians, and technicians, are inadequately trained and/or inadequately motivated to adhere to standard procedures. The Graduate School Animal Care and Use Committee seems to have failed to require a justification for the use of non-standard drugs and to verify proper training of staff.

These serious university-documented mistakes and lapses resulting in so much unnecessary suffering more than warrant careful USDA inspection of the university’s animal care and use records. We have urged them to take appropriate action to assure that all personnel at the institution faithfully adhere to the (woefully minimal) rules stipulated in the U.S. animal welfare regulations. We will keep you updated.
Important! Inside This Newsletter!

Please mail the enclosed thank you card to Renaissance Faire for NOT having elephant rides this year!

Tributes

In memory of Nellie from Theron Ris. “You did such a good job of being a dog. Now rest in peace my love.”

In memory of Robert “Bob” W. Devaul who loved the animals and his Alliance for Animals friends. On behalf of the animals and Deanna (Dee Dee) S. Devaul, his daughter, we thank you for all that you do.

In memory of Bob Devaul from Karolina Johnson.

In memory of Mooneeyn Skallerup who loved all animals (except spiders!), from Tod Skallerup.

*Tributes of 20 words or less will be listed for a donation of $25 or more. Pictures welcomed. Visit our Support page at www.allanimals.org or include your tribute in the enclosed envelope.

Join Us!

Antivivisection Committee
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Visit our Events page for summer locations at www.allanimals.org/events. This is an active group, so be prepared to do some work!

Thank You Volunteers

Thank you to Ann Emerson, Marina Drake, Amanda Rockwell, Katie Bittorf, and Gina Stuessy for working at our informational table at the Capital Square Farmers Market. Your presence was greatly appreciated!

Also thank you to Derek Bump for helping us digitalize our library of VHS recordings. This is a BIG help!