

# Current Events

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## MEETING REPORT

### Laboratory Animal Research for the 80s

In the contemporary book, *Slaughter of the Innocent*, the bad guys are medical researchers. The book cover decries the "senseless bloody torture of millions of animals in laboratories all over the world."

The 1975 book, *Animal Liberation* by Peter Singer, reflected and popularized a more sophisticated animal welfare movement by setting down a philosophical basis for opposing animal research.

Animal rights proponents are divided in their tolerance of animal medical research, but they are stirring a controversy that is being debated in national journals, addressed by full-page magazine advertising and translated into federal legislative proposals.

The topic brought together more than 200 Midwest medical researchers and related professionals February 12, 1981 for a seminar on "Laboratory Animal Research for the 80s" at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in Milwaukee. A panel of four veterinary care professionals agreed that communication between investigators and the public was essential to promote an understanding of animals in medical research.

"There's no reason not to tell people what's going on behind closed doors," said Steele F. Mattingly, DVM, of Harlan-Sprague Dawley, a commercial vendor of research animals in Madison. "They're interested in knowing what you're doing."

"I think it's time for scientists... to state the case, not animal care professionals," noted Franklin M. Loew, DVM, PhD, director of comparative medicine at Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD).

"Only the investigator can respond to people outside who are saying 'Do you really need those animals?' The laboratory animal veterinarian doesn't have the credibility the investigator does," added Robert A. Whitney Jr., DVM, chief of the Veterinary Resources Branch of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

MCW Dean and Academic Vice President Edward J. Lennon, MD, noted that a joint committee is now being formed by MCW and area institutions to develop channels of communication with the community. "An ongoing debate," he added, "is not simply proselytizing our point of view. I don't think you can be an effective communicator without listening."

The animal welfare message has had impact on the national level. Congressional bill HR 556 would divert 30-50% of federal money allotted for animal research into developing alternative experiments.

NIH guidelines, which must be followed to qualify for NIH grants, include provisions calling for "consideration of the well-being of animals" and stating that statistical analysis, mathematical models or *in vitro* techniques "should be used when possible" to augment or replace laboratory animals.

Experiments using tissue culture, computer simulation, microbiological models and human experimentation are other alternatives to animal research, according to Dr. Loew, who said there is evidence that alternatives are being used. Between 1968 and 1978 the use of animals in U.S. research dropped 30-50% depending on the type of animal, according to National Academy of Sciences statistics. (*For comment on these statistics, see Book Reviews—Ed.*)

At the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC), animals are being used less for research because of goals and objectives, economics and availability, according to John H. Richardson, DVM, director of the Office of Biosafety at CDC. The number of rhesus monkeys used there for kidney donor models has been halved without decreasing the quality of the program, he noted.

Putting animal research into per-

spective, Dr. Loew cited statistics showing that each year about 13.5 million dogs are killed in U.S. shelters. In 1978, according to NAS figures, 183,000 dogs were used in U.S. medical research.

The seminar was arranged by Glenda W. Bowne, director of the Oscar F. Peterson Animal Resource Center at MCW, and sponsored by the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) Southern Wisconsin, Marquette University Department of Biological Sciences, Mount Sinai Medical Center, Veterans Administration Medical Center-Wood and MCW. (This report appeared originally in *MCW World* 3(3), 1981.)

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**American Veterinary Medical Association:** 118th Annual Meeting, July 20-23, 1981, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact Mr. R.G. Rongren, 930 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60196.

**American Society of Animal Science:** Annual Meeting, July 26-29, 1981, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina. Contact ASAS, 308 West Clark, Champaign, IL 61820.

**Hungarian Society of Agricultural Sciences:** International Conference of Ethology, August 24-27, 1981, Agricultural University of Godollo, Godollo, Hungary. Topics include "The Role of Ethology in Large Scale Animal Breeding," and "Developing the Technical-Biological Unit of Industrial Animal Breeding with Help of Ethological Research." Contact Prof. Dr. J. Czako, Organizing Committee for Congress of Applied Animal Ethology, Agricultural University, Godollo, H2103, Hungary.

**Wildlife Disease Association (Australian Section):** Fourth International Wildlife Diseases Conference, August 24-28, 1981, Sydney, Australia. Contact Dr. E.P. Finnie, Program Chairman, Toronga Park

Zoo, Mosman, NSW 2088, Australia, or Dr. M.E. Fowler, Dept. of Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California at Davis, Davis, CA 95616, USA.

**Acute Toxicity Research: Possible Alternatives:** September 11, 1981, Jaarbeurs Congrescentre, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Contact Bert Van Dijk, Coordinator, c/o Stadhoudeslaan 100, 2517 JC, The Hague, The Netherlands.

**British Veterinary Association:** Annual Congress, September 17-20, 1981, Exeter University. Contact BVA, 7 Mansfield St., London W1M 0AT, UK.

**Society for Animal Rights and Animal Rights Law Reporter:** First National Conference on Animal Rights Law, November 27-28, 1981, New York, NY. Contact Society for Animal Rights, 421 State St., Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

**International Conference on the Human/Companion Animal Bond:** October 5-7, 1981, Philadelphia, PA. Sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society and the Delta Group of the Latham Foundation. Contact the Center (above), School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 3800 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

**Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals:** Third Annual Meeting, December 27, 1981 (tentative), Philadelphia, PA. Contact Professor Harlan B. Miller, Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

**American Association for the Advancement of Science:** Annual Meeting, January 3-8, 1982, Washington, DC. Contact AAAS Meetings Office, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

**Zoological Society of Philadelphia and the Institute for Cancer Research:** Symposium on Animal Counterparts of Human Disease, With Particular Reference

to Hepatitis B-like Viruses, May 16-20, 1982, Franklin Plaza Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Contact Theresa Mullarkey, Philadelphia Zoological Garden, 34th St. and Gerard Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

**International Primatological Society: IXth Congress**, August 8-13, 1982, Atlanta, GA. The annual meeting of the American Society of Primatologists will be held jointly with the Congress. Contact Dr. Frederick A. King, Director, Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Jorio Rustichelli Award**

The 1979 Jorio Rustichelli prize, worth one million lire, was awarded to three American scientists for their co-authored work, "The reduction of coronary flow in the native circulation after by-pass" (*J Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery* 78:772-778, 1979). The prize is given out annually for the best paper, published in previous year and submitted for the competition, which describes research leading to the replacement of animals, a reduction in their numbers, or a reduction in the stress suffered.

Those who wish to enter for the 1980 prize, which will be worth 1.5 million lire, should send a copy of the journal containing the article (or a photocopy of the galley proof) to the Unione Antivivsezionista Italiana, Corso Porta Nuova 32, Milano, Italy before August 31, 1981. The paper must have been published during 1980.

### **Handbook for Animal Welfare Organization Vets**

In an effort to reduce friction and promote understanding between veterinarians and animal welfare organizations, the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) has published a booklet, "The Veterinarian and Animal Welfare

Organizations," containing guidelines for cooperation and detailed discussion of topics such as implementation of an almoning system for veterinarians working in AWOs, ethics of veterinarians employed by AWOs, and reduced-cost spaying of bitches. The basic principle expressed in the booklet states that in order to foster cooperation between veterinary practitioners and animal welfare organizations, the veterinarian working with an AWO must confine his or her clinical work to animals whose owners cannot afford normal veterinary fees, to emergency cases and to stray and surrendered animals.

### **PCAP Starts Magazine in U.K.**

PCAP International (Protection and Conservation of Animals and Plantlife) is now producing a magazine, "Horizon", sponsored by a London business and Liverpool printing firm. Subscriptions are free to PCAP members and 30p for nonmembers. PCAP membership rates for 1981 are: £2 — waged; £1 — unwaged; 50p — pensioners and under 16s. Contact Daniel Lindsay, 29 Broughton Dr., Graysendale, Liverpool L19 OPB, UK.