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Who Are We?

Founded in 1883, the American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS) is the oldest non-profit animal advocacy and educational organization in the United States dedicated to ending experimentation on animals in research, testing, and education. AAVS also opposes and works to end other forms of cruelty to animals. We work with students, grassroots groups, individuals, teachers, the media, other national organizations, government officials, members of the scientific community, and advocates in other countries to legally and effectively end the use of animals in science through education, advocacy, and the development of alternative methods to animal use.

AAVS has two main divisions, each involved in specific activities. Animalearn is the education program of AAVS, which focuses on ending vivisection and dissection in the classroom. From elementary through college levels, Animalearn helps countless individuals make their classrooms more humane. Animalearn operates the most aggressive dissection alternatives lending library in the country, The Science Bank; it provides alternatives to using animals, from basic dissection, through psychology experiments. Animalearn also participates in national teacher conferences and hosts workshops to help teachers learn ways of educating without harming other living creatures. Animalearn's National Humane Educators Network links interested parties with speakers across the country, bringing the message of humane education to thousands.

The Outreach division of AAVS educates the general public about animal issues through one of the top-rated literature collections in the animal advocacy movement and the informative AAVS website. Our quarterly publication, *AV Magazine*, and bi-monthly newsletter, *Activate For Animals*, provide comprehensive up-to-date information on the scientific and ethical dimensions of animal experiments and alternatives. Both publications encourage AAVS members and supporters to become actively involved in our campaigns. Outreach staff also travel to speaking engagements and conferences and place advertisements in national publications to spread the AAVS message across the country.

The Alternatives Research & Development Foundation (ARDF), an affiliate of AAVS, awards grants to scientists and educators working to develop non-animal methods of investigation. ARDF's unique program provides the necessary resources for the development of alternatives to the use of animals, and it advocates the use of alternatives through the internet and by participating in conferences and seminars. Through these endeavors, ARDF works to promote scientific solutions for today with humane visions for the future.

We ask you to become a member of AAVS and help us to end the use of animals in science through education, advocacy, and the development of alternative methods. It is only through the support of members and other individuals that we are able to continue our vital and successful programs.



Rabbits are one of my favorite animals they are soft, fuzzy, and adorably cute. A lot of people must feel the same way about rabbits because there are thousands of bunnies purchased every year around the Easter holiday. Unfortunately, most of these 'Easter bunnies' end up in shelters or are abandoned in parks. Before purchasing a rabbit this Easter, please consider whether a rabbit is the best choice for you and your family. Although it is tempting to purchase these adorable, little creatures—especially for children—rabbits are not ideal pets for small children because they do not like to be

FIRST WORD



held and can bite. If your child is asking for a rabbit this Easter, perhaps you can suggest a chocolate bunny. If your children are like mine, they will happily accept this sweet treat!

If you are really interested in having a rabbit as a pet, please do not perpetuate the rabbit pet trade. Instead, there are thousands of rabbits waiting to be rescued from local animal shelters or rescue groups. Visit www.rabbitrescue.com for more information about whether you are the right person to live with a rabbit and where you can rescue these animals.

As a consumer, there are lots of choices that you can make to prevent the cruel and inhumane treatment of rabbits. One obvious way is to forego rabbit, or *lapin*, for dinner. Although this dish is increasing in popularity, many people are surprised to learn that USDA categorizes rabbits as "poultry" and, as a result of this categorization, these animals receive no protections under the Humane Slaughter Act.

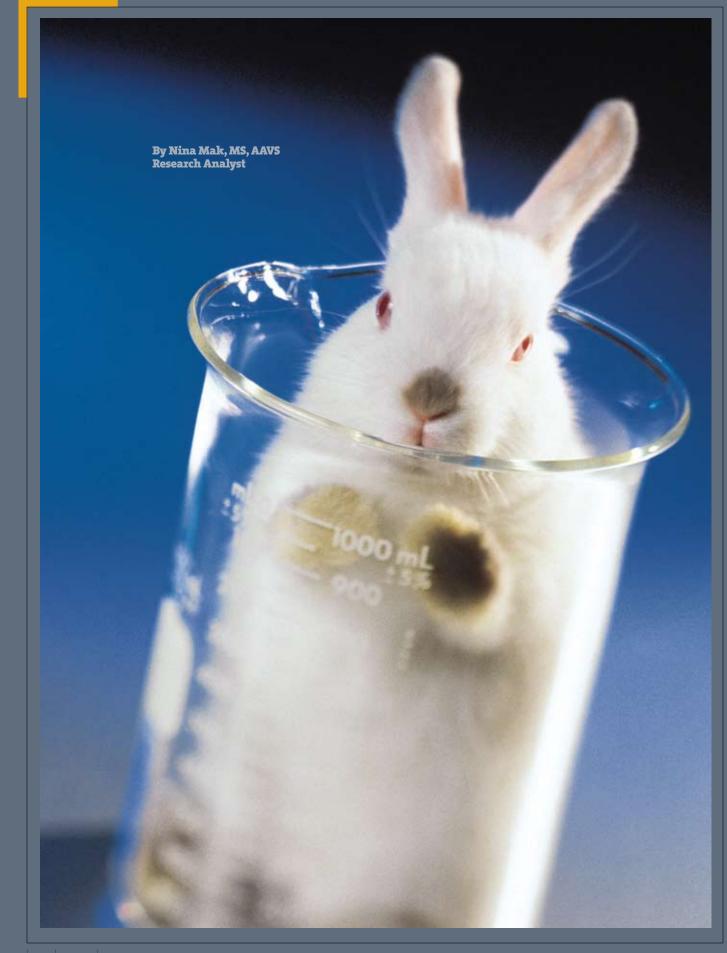
Another easy action for animal advocates to take in eliminating cruel treatment towards rabbits is refusing to buy clothing that contains rabbit fur. Many sweaters, coats, gloves and other clothing contain rabbit fur. Surprisingly, ethically minded consumers may purchase fur trimmed items unintentionally because not all clothing with fur is required to contain a label identifying whether the fur is real or faux. (Please see page 10.)

Next, purchasing personal and household products that are not tested on animals, such as cosmetics, shampoos, and laundry detergents, is an important step towards eliminating unnecessary product testing on animals. Due to the docile nature of rabbits and their sensitive eyes, product testing is frequently conducted on these gentle creatures. To help consumers purchase products that are truly cruelty-free and to encourage companies to use nonanimal alternatives, AAVS is assuming responsibility for the management and development of the Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics. (Request your free Compassionate Shopping Guide today!)

As for rabbits used in research, AAVS is challenging the patenting of a rabbit. The challenged patent is for a rabbit whose eyes have been purposefully damaged to mimic a condition in humans known as dry eye. If this patent is granted, the patent owner can license the rabbit model to drug researchers to test the effectiveness of medications for treating dry eye. AAVS is contesting the legality of this patent by arguing that animals are not patentable subject matter and the techniques claimed in this patent are not novel or nonobvious. If the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office continues to grant patents for animals, animal suffering will escalate. Patent owners have a financial incentive to encourage the use of patented animals in research and testing and they discourage the use of nonanimal methods. (See page 2 for further information on how you can help.)

Hopefully, this issue will inspire you to take action and help AAVS eliminate suffering for rabbits in many different ways. With spring approaching, it is the perfect time of year to focus on rabbits. Whether they are white, black, brown, or multi-color, rabbits are beautiful creatures who deserve compassion and humane treatment.

Juacie Letterman



A Damaged Rabbit is Still a Rabbit And other reasons why animals shouldn't be patented

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n August 2, 2005, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued Patent No. 6,924,413 to the Japanese company, Biochemical and Pharmacological Laboratories, Inc.
 (BPL) for a rabbit whose eyes have been purposefully damaged to mimic a condition in humans know as 'dry eye,'¹ allowing BPL the potential to profit from intentionally harming animals. AAVS is challenging this patent.

Animal Patents

For over 200 years, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has issued patents, or exclusive property rights, to inventors of "any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof."² For most people, a "patentable subject matter" would be something like a toaster, alarm clock, or zipper—not an animal. It is hard to believe that since 1988, the USPTO has, in fact, been issuing patents not just for things like light bulbs and toothbrushes, but also for living, sentient animals.

According to an announcement made by the USPTO in 1987, it "now considers nonnaturally occurring, nonhuman, multicellular living organisms, including animals, to be patentable subject matter."³ Because of this, over 660 patents have now been issued for animals that have been 'altered' in some way, usually sickened, injured, or harmed in the interest of profit, but under the guise of scientific research, testing, and experimentation. Some examples of animal patents include:

→ Cats, dogs, nonhuman primates, mice, rats, sheep, or pigs who have been irradiated to make them immunodeficient and then transplanted with human bone marrow and spleen cells;⁴

→ Mice who have been genetically engineered to model human signs of

aging such as hearing loss, muscle loss, and graying hair;⁵

→ Mice who have been genetically engineered to be susceptible to stress and depression;⁶ and

→ Horses and mice who have been implanted with thymus and liver organs from a human fetus of approximately 24 gestational weeks.⁷

The Rabbit Patent

With the belief that complex, living organisms should not be patented, AAVS is again challenging one such animal patent: Patent No. 6,924,413, rabbits whose eyes are fixed open and then intentionally damaged to serve as models for corneal epithelial damage in humans. Rabbits are traditionally used in eye experiments, such as the infamous Draize eye irritancy test, because their eyes are large, and they are generally docile animals. The patent covers not only the process used to inflict damage on the animals, but also the damaged animals themselves—and not just rabbits, but any nonhuman mammal or fowl, including monkeys, dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rats, mice, goats, cows, sheep, pigs, and chickens who have received the damage are covered under the patent.

According to this patent, the rabbits' (or other animals') eyelids are glued open or held open using retractors so that According to an announcement made by the USPTO in 1987, it "now considers nonnaturally occurring, nonhuman, multicellular living organisms, including animals, to be patentable subject matter." As the bunny patent illustrates, animal patents provide an incentive to hurt animals for economic gain.



"they cannot blink, and the cornea is then treated with water-absorbing substances such as powdered sugar or salt for 20-60 minutes, until the corneal surface layer (epithelium) is damaged. These rabbits can then be used by drug researchers to test the effectiveness of medications for treating corneal epithelial damages such as dry eye in humans.⁸

Dry Eye Disease

Dry eye, known scientifically as *keratitis sicca* or *keratoconjunctivitis sicca*, is a mild form of corneal epithelial damage caused by insufficient tear production.⁹ It is becoming increasingly common in humans due to the growing use of computer displays (which reduce blinking), soft contact lenses (which can absorb tears), and laser surgery (which damages the nerves that stimulate tear secretion). It is estimated that over 20 million Americans suffer from symptoms of dry eye, which include dryness, irritation, itching, redness, sensitivity to light, and blurred vision.

There are numerous treatments for dry eye already available without a prescription, usually in the form of artificial tears or ointments that can be applied directly to the eye. One prescription product is also available— Restasis, a cyclosporine formulation that reduces inflammation of the eye surface in some people.

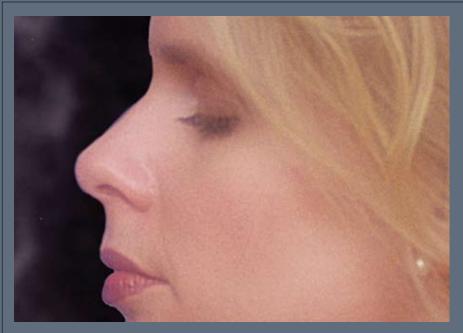
However, many of these products provide only temporary relief, and some products simply do not work for some people. It is estimated that the market for dry eye treatment will grow from approximately \$80-100 million in 2004 to \$350-700 million within three to five years, and manufacturers are interested in capitalizing on this growth by developing new therapies.¹⁰

(Un)Ethics of Animal Patents

By patenting an animal model of dry eye disease, Biochemical and Pharmacological Laboratories, Inc. will be able to turn injured rabbits into a business. According to U.S. patent law, anyone wishing to use the patented "product" would be required to obtain permission from, and usually pay a fee to, the patent holder. As the bunny patent illustrates, animal patents provide an incentive to hurt animals for economic gain.

Because patents also restrict competition, since no one other than the patent holder can commercialize the patented product, the ability to patent animals also protects and justifies the often substantial investment that corporations, major universities, and government agencies pour into research and development of animal models for biomedical research and testing. If animals could not be patented, pharmaceutical and biotech companies, for example, would have a significantly reduced interest in developing new animal models.

Thus, animal patents encourage research on animals, discouraging research into alternatives and the use of non-animal methods. The increase in animal patenting seen in recent years, due largely to the proliferation of genetic



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engineering, represents a serious threat to efforts to reduce animal suffering caused by experimentation.

The unethical nature of issuing patents on animals led philosopher and ethicist Bernard Rollin to write in his 1995 book, *The Frankenstein Syndrome*: "In my view, the Patent Office rushed in where angels feared to tread.... It was a bureaucratic decision made in a value-free context (or value-ignoring context) by an agency that has notoriously avoided engaging the ethical and social issues raised by inventions like switchblades [and] assault rifles.... It disavows concern with issues of safety; danger to humans, animals, or environment; or welfare of animals."¹¹

AAVS Challenge

According to patent law, for a patent to be awarded, the subject matter must be a "new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof." In addition, "the subject matter sought to be patented must be sufficiently different from what has been used or described before that it may be said to be *nonobvious* to a person having ordinary skill in the area of technology related to the invention" [emphasis added].¹²

Thus, in order for the USPTO to grant the bunny patent, the agency first made the judgment that injured rabbits somehow fall under the category of "machine," "manufacture," or "composition of matter," and are thus "patentable subject matter." Thereafter, it was established that the steps used to damage their eyes would be "novel" and "nonobvious" to a person knowledgeable of the field.

AAVS, however, in conjunction with the PatentWatch Project of the International Center for Technology Assessment, is contesting the legality of this patent. We assert that animals are not patentable subjects, as they are complex life forms with sentience and self-awareness, and cannot be patented as a mere manufacture or inventor's composition of matter. A rabbit with damaged eves is still a rabbit. Moreover, the methods used to damage the rabbits' corneas fail the of patent law, because prior literature already suggests using the techniques claimed in the patent. We are thus asking the USPTO to reexamine and rescind the rabbit patent.

Others share AAVS's sentiments that animals are not patentable objects. In 2002, Canada agreed that animals are not patentable subject matter when the Supreme Court there ruled that "Several important features possessed by animals distinguish them from both micro-organisms and plants and remove them even further from being considered a 'composition of matter' or a 'manufacture.' In particular, the capacity to display emotion and complexity of reaction and to direct behaviour in a manner that is not predictable as stimulus and response, is unique to animal forms of life."¹³

This is AAVS's second challenge to an animal patent and follows our success in having Texas A&M University drop its patent claims on beagles who were severely sickened and then purposefully infected with a mold in order to test new human drugs on them.¹⁴ AAVS hopes to have similar success challenging the bunny patent.

Please contact the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and tell the agency that you support AAVS's Request for Re-Examination of Patent No. 6,924,413. Explain that you are opposed to issuing patents on animals such as rabbits, who are sentient individuals, not machines or, as the Patent Office states, "compositions of matter." Mail Stop Comments-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. N

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Blinded for Beauty: Rabbits Used in Product Testing

By Vicki Katrinak, AAVS Policy Analyst



he image of a rabbit has become the logo of choice for the cruelty-free product industry. This is due in part to the work of animal advocates who displayed pictures of rabbits with eye injuries and shaved sides to reveal the horrors of the product testing industry to consumers. Many companies responded to consumer concerns by banning product testing or working to develop appropriate nonanimal alternatives; however, thousands of rabbits continue to suffer and die each year to put consumer products such as shampoo, lipstick, and laundry detergent on store shelves.

The Draize Tests

The test most often associated with rabbits in laboratories is the Draize Eye Irritancy Test; however, other animals including dogs and nonhuman primates are also used for this procedure. John H. Draize, Ph.D., a scientist at the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), developed the Draize eye test in 1944 to assess eye irritation caused by various chemicals. In the test, a substance is placed in one eye, with the other eye serving as a control. The rabbits are restrained, preventing them from responding naturally to the irritation, and their eyes are evaluated after one hour and then at 24-hour intervals for up to 14 days. Some continue to be evaluated up to 3 weeks later. The level of irritation to the eyes is scored numerically by observation of the three major tissues of the eye (cornea, conjunctiva, and iris).1 Rabbits suffer from redness, bleeding, ulcers, and even blindness, and are likely killed upon completion of the experiment.

Similar to the eye test, Draize also developed a skin irritancy test that measures the level of irritation caused by test substances on the skin. Rabbits, as well as rats and mice, are often used for the Draize skin irritancy test in which one patch of skin is shaved and a high concentration of a test substance is applied while another shaved area is used as a control. The skin is then observed for signs of irritation such as swelling, itching, soreness, and inflammation.²

Flawed Science

Using rabbits and other animals to assess the safety of cosmetic and household products is not only unjustified cruelty, but also flawed science. As reported by *Nature*, toxicology tests "are stuck in a time warp, and are largely based on wasteful and often poorly predictive animal experiments."³ Different species and even different animals within the same species can change test results due to differences in absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of chemicals. Test conditions are often unrealistic, with extremely high doses administered by abnormal routes, and "test results have to be 'scaled up' to humans but the mathematical formulae used have not been proved accurate."⁴ All of these factors lead to highly unreliable safety data.

The Draize eye test has been criticized for several reasons. The structure of the cornea of the eye of a rabbit differs significantly from that of a human. Rabbits also produce a smaller volume of tears than humans, allowing chemicals and other irritants placed in rabbit eyes to linger longer and cause more irritation.⁵ Not only does this make the Draize eye test unreliable, but it also adds to the immense suffering caused by this test. In addition, "the subjective nature of the gross observations made during the scoring of the test, plus normal animal-to-animal variability, make it virtually impossible to routinely reproduce the final Draize score, especially for midrange irritants."6 Similarly, the reliability of the Draize skin irritancy test has been questioned since different species have very different types of skin, "so a simple extrapolation to likely human responses is rather dubious."7 Clearly, animals are not sufficient models for product testing, yet their use remains entrenched in modern science.

Cosmetic Testing and the Law

It was not until the early twentieth century that cosmetic and household products were tested on animals. In 1933, a product called Lash Lure blinded over a dozen women, and one woman died after an ulcer caused by the product became infected. This

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incident and others like it led the United States Congress to pass the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act of 1938.8 This law gave the FDA regulatory authority over cosmetic products, and companies began to test products and ingredients on animals in an effort to ensure safety for consumers. While many companies still use animal testing to assess the safety of their products, "the FD&C Act does not specifically require the use of animals in testing cosmetics for safety, nor does the Act subject cosmetics to FDA premarket approval."9 In addition, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, which ensures the safety of household chemicals, does not require the testing of household products on animals. There are sufficient existing safety data as well as in vitro alternatives to make animal testing for cosmetic and household products obsolete. Unfortunately, many companies remain resistant to changing their testing techniques, and U.S. agencies like the FDA continue to endorse animal testing methods as the gold standard.

While product testing on animals has declined in the U.S., efforts to stop the testing of cosmetic products on animals have been more successful in Europe. In 2003, animal advocates in the European Union (EU) successfully pushed for passage of a ban on cosmetic testing on animals. The seventh amendment to the Cosmetics Directive (76/768/EEC) sets a series of deadlines for animal testing bans and marketing bans of cosmetics containing animal tested ingredients. Most of these deadlines are tied to the availability of nonanimal testing methods. In 1998, the United Kingdom banned testing cosmetic products and ingredients on animals, and testing bans or partial bans are also in place in Austria, Belgium, Germany, and The Netherlands. Unfortunately, until the EU sales ban is in place, most cosmetic products sold in these countries will have been tested on animals in other countries.10

Labeling

While many animal tests have been replaced by suitable alternatives, (see sidebar page 9) saving countless lives, many animals continue to suffer and die to manufacture personal care and household products. At the same time, companies have learned that making cruelty-free claims can lead to big profits. Compassionate consumers purchase products with labels claiming to be While product testing on animals has declined in the U.S., efforts to stop the testing of cosmetic products on animals have been more successful in Europe.

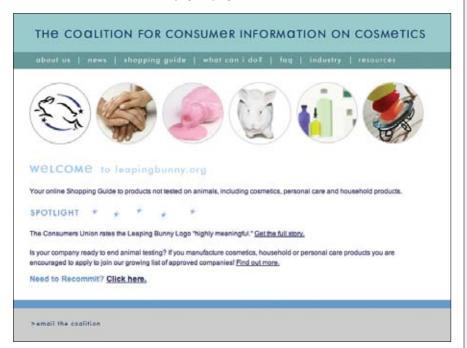
"cruelty-free" or "not tested on animals," but this claim often refers only to the finished product. Most animal testing of products does not occur at the final stage but rather through the supply chain. So, a product may claim that its products are not tested on animals, while all its ingredients have been tested on animals. Similarly, some companies state that "we" do not test on animals, when in fact the testing is merely contracted out to another company. These kinds of labels and claims are often confusing and misleading to consumers.

Concerned about the number of different animal testing claims that companies use with no accountability, several animal protection organizations, including the American Anti-Vivisection Society, joined forces in 1996 to create the Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics (CCIC).¹¹ CCIC, which licenses the leaping bunny logo, requires companies to follow the Corporate Standard of Compassion for Animals, a voluntary pledge whereby companies state that they will not conduct or commission animal tests for any of their finished products, ingredients, or formulations after a fixed cut-off date. Unlike other lists, the CCIC requires companies to renew their pledges annually and obtain verifiable assurances from their ingredient suppliers that no new animal testing has or will take place after the fixed cutoff date. These assurances make CCIC the only reliable list of cosmetic and household products that are 100 percent cruelty-free.

Hope for the Future

Unlike so many other animal abuses, the issue of using animals in product testing is one that ultimately rests with consumers. Reliance on animal testing methods for cosmetic and household products will continue unless concerned citizens speak out with their purchasing power. By making informed humane choices and encouraging others to do the same, individuals can push for an end to product testing and stop the needless suffering of millions of rabbits and other animals each year. **AV**

Please visit the CCIC website at www.leapingbunny.org.



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Alternatives to Product Testing on Animals

Below is a list of some non-animal alternatives to product testing that have been validated by the United States (U.S.) or the European Union (EU), as well as some that show promise for approval.

Epi-Derm[™] is a skin model derived from human skin cultures that is now a validated alternative for testing skin corrosivity. It is being considered for approval as a measure of skin irritation and phototoxicity as well. While this model has been validated to replace the animal test method in the EU, U.S. regulators still require a secondary test using animals for negative results only.

EPISKIN[™] is a three-dimensional human skin model comprised of reconstructed epidermis for assessing dermal corrosivity. The EU has approved this alternative to eliminate the animal test method but the U.S. still requires confirmation tests on animals for negative results.

Corrositex uses a synthetic membrane-based detection system to determine dermal corrosivity potential of chemicals and chemical mixtures. It is designed to mimic the effect of corrosives on living skin. This test method has been validated in the U.S. and EU.

EpiOcular[™] is a model of the cornea consisting of normal, human-derived epidermal cell culture for assessing eye irritation.

Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship (QSAR) computer models make predictions about the process by which chemical structure is quantitatively correlated with a biological activity or chemical reactivity. QSAR models can be used as a first step for evaluating many chemicals for acute toxicity and skin and gut absorption.

Caco-2 human cells possess many of the same properties as the small intestine. Use of these cell lines is a useful nonanimal alternative for predicting the absorption of chemicals through the gut.

Physiologically-Based Biokinetic (PBBK) computer models predict the absorption and distribution of chemicals within the body and how quickly they will be excreted.

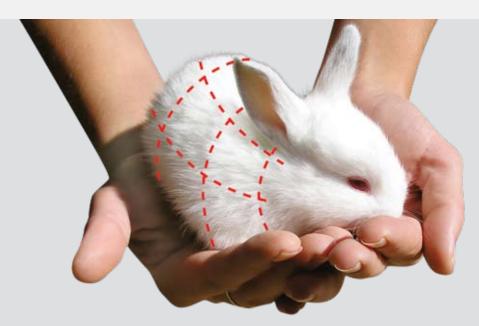
In vitro cytotoxicity test methods have been approved in the U.S. and EU to eliminate extraneous animal testing by estimating the starting doses for acute oral toxicity tests.

Deductive Estimation of Risk from Existing Knowledge (DEREK) is a knowledgebased system for the prediction of a range of toxic endpoints including skin sensitization.

The Ames test uses specific strains of common bacteria to detect genetic changes caused by test substances. Positive test results signal the possibility that the compound could cause cancer. This widely used alternative method was developed in the 1970s. **AV**

By Vicki Katrinak, AAVS Policy Analyst

unfurgivable Rabbits Dying for Fashion



n the early 1990s, animal advocates seemed ready to declare victory in their anti-

fur campaign as fur sales plummeted, nearly wiping out the entire industry. Unfortunately, all fur has made a comeback since then, and rabbit fur is no exception. In fact, rabbit fur is commonly used in accessories like scarves and gloves as well as a plethora of relatively inexpensive fur coats, vests, and ponchos that have gained popularity in recent years.

In addition, fur is now being marketed to a larger and younger crowd who cannot afford to buy the fulllength mink or sable coats of decades past and to those who want to wear fur more casually. As reported in the Wall Street Journal, rabbit fur has also become more popular due to new fashion trends. For example, "Rabbit's more affordable price has encouraged experimentation, either with color or shadings that mimic other furs, or even other textures."1 Thus, the number of rabbits killed to fuel this new fur market has increased significantly in the past decade.

A Tale of Two Rabbits

Despite claims and beliefs to the contrary, rabbit fur is not merely a byproduct of the rabbit meat industry. While some fur from rabbits killed for meat may enter the market, the majority of rabbit fur sold in the United States and abroad is from rabbits specifically bred for their fur. In fact, rabbit meat production techniques are "usually incompatible with production standards for quality fur pelts,"² since rabbits are slaughtered in the meat industry at 10 to 12 weeks of age when their coats are thin and not suitable for fur. Conversely, two species of rabbit in particular have been bred for the fur industry due to their soft and beautiful fur: the Rex and the Angora.

Rex rabbits are known for their special coats. Unlike most rabbit breeds, the Rex has guard hairs that are shorter than the undercoat. This trait results in a soft, velvety coat that is prized by the fur industry.3 Rex rabbits are raised usually until the age of 6 or 7 months when they are killed solely for their fur. The Angora rabbit has long hair often referred to as wool, which is cut with scissors or electric or manual shears, or collected by depilation. The female Angora rabbits are kept alive as long as possible, and their hair is collected every 90 to 100 days in wool production. Because they produce less hair than females, male Angora rabbits are often culled at birth. This slaughter provides less competition for food, which speeds the development of the female young.⁴

Life on the Fur Farm

Rabbits raised and killed on fur farms suffer immensely. Kept outside in barren wire cages, rabbits often suffer from temperature extremes. For Angora rabbits, who are sheared during the winter months when their coats are thickest, death from exposure to the elements is a common fate. "Most losses of adult Angoras occur during the days following hair collection as the animals then have problems maintaining thermal balance."5 For rabbits who are killed for their pelts, such as the Rex rabbit, death often comes by cruel methods. Animals on U.S. fur farms are not protected by any federal laws requiring humane slaughter. As a result, rabbits and other animals farmed for their fur are killed in ways that preserve their fur with no regard for the suffering of the animals. Gassing, decompression chambers, and neckbreaking are common killing methods on rabbit fur farms.6

Laws and Legislation

In 1951, the United States Congress passed the Fur Products Labeling Act, which requires the labeling of fur garments with the country of origin and the species of the animal or animals who produced the fur, whether the product is composed of used fur, waste fur, or dyed or artificially colored fur. Unfortunately, there is a loophole in this labeling law that allows the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to exempt certain products "by reason of the relatively small quantity or value of the fur or used fur contained therein."⁷

For many years, the threshold for exemption from the Fur Products Labeling Act was \$20; however, the FTC increased this threshold to \$150 in 1998.⁸ According to the FTC, "If the cost to a manufacturer of fur trim used on a garment (not including the cost of adding the trim to the product) or a manufacturer's selling price of a fur product is \$150 or less, the product is exempt from the statute or rules."⁹ Therefore, a parka with fur trim could cost \$250, but as long as the value of the trim is less than \$150, it does not need to be labeled as fur.

Rabbit fur, because of its relatively low cost, is often used in products that are exempt from this labeling law. In fact, using approximate pelt prices after tanning and dressing, a garment could contain the fur of 30 rabbits and still be exempt from the Fur Products Labeling Act.¹⁰ Because labels are not required, unsuspecting consumers may inadvertently purchase real fur products or have no idea what type of fur they are purchasing.

Fortunately, the United States Congress is considering legislation, H.R. 891, that eliminates the \$150 threshold and requires all fur garments to be properly labeled. Introduced by Representatives James Moran (D-VA) and Mike Ferguson (R-NJ), this important legislation will allow consumers to make informed decisions about fur products and choose faux fur products instead.¹¹

What You Can Do

Please contact your federal Representative and urge him or her to support and cosponsor H.R. 891. Tell your Representative that this legislation is necessary so American consumers can make educated decisions about fur garments. To find your U.S. Representative and his or her contact information, log onto www.house.gov or call (800) 688-9889. **AV**

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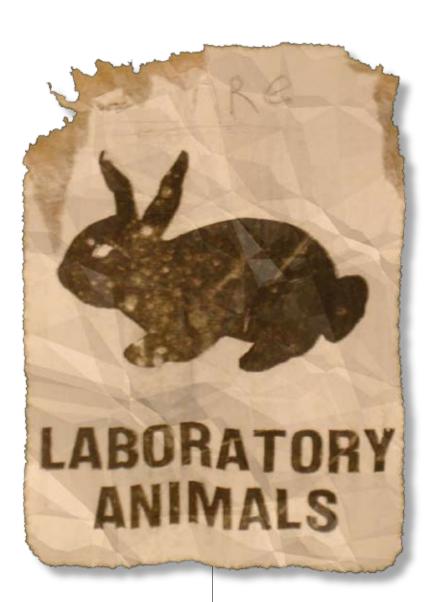
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Rabbits in Research: the cost of experimentation

By Crystal Schaeffer, M.A. Ed., AAVS Outreach Director



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Most people associate the use of rabbits in laboratories with product testing. And indeed, rabbits are typically used in corrostivity testing

experiments such as the Draize eye and skin irritancy tests. However, they are also used in biomedical research in a variety of areas ranging from vaccine development to optical and cancer studies to models of human disease.

The Numbers

According to 2004 data released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the number of rabbits used in laboratories rivals that of guinea pigs and is nearly five times that of nonhuman primates and pigs and ten times that of cats. Twenty-two years ago, rabbit use reached an all-time high of over 554,600 individuals being exploited in testing and research. Over the past two decades, the use of rabbits in laboratories has gradually declined, and in 2004, the most recent year with available data, rabbit numbers reached 261,573. (See Tables 1 & 2) Nearly 43 percent of these animals were utilized in procedures that caused pain and/or distress. (See Table 3)

Rabbit research

Due to their small size, docile nature. and the fact that they are relatively inexpensive to purchase, breed, and house, rabbits are used in a wide variety of research areas. Because rabbits are used so extensively in eye irritancy tests, much is known about their eye physiology, so they are also often used to study questions about human eye physiology and disease. For example, several scientists at the University of Southern California are using rabbits to study diseases associated with impaired vision due to the release of secretions on the eye surface. Additionally, researchers at Emory University are studying cornea edema, while at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science, Little Rock, researchers are studying visual processing in the retina. However, rabbit eye physiology is very different than that in humans. One glaring difference is the fact that rabbits do not have tear ducts, so there is no natural mechanism to wash away eye irritants as in humans.

Rabbits are also used in cardiovascular research. Though not typically used in studying the health benefits of exercise, they are sometimes used to investigate the impact of exercise on cardiovascular function. In one study, rabbits were placed in a motorized wheel, forced to exercise, and later subjected to surgery to assess their cardiac function. In another study, rabbits were required to jump over obstacles in order to get to their food, which "caused a large number of injuries that would not likely be acceptable to most [Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees]."¹

Rabbits are also used extensively in atherosclerosis research. Another published study stated that "Several characteristics of the rabbit make it an excellent model for the study of...atherosclerosis."² However, according to scientists at the University

Table 1: Number of Rabbits Used in Laboratories since 1973*		
1973	447,570	
1974	425,585	
1975	448,530	
1976	527,551	
1977	439,003	
1978	475,162	
1979	539,594	
1980	471,297	
1981	473,922	
1982	453,506	
1983	466,810	
1984	529,101	
1985	544,621	
1986	521,773	
1987	554,385	
1988	459,254	
1989	471,037	
1990	399,264	
1991	396,046	
1992	431,432	
1993	426,501	
1994	393,751	
1995	354,076	
1996	338,574	
1997	309,322	
1998	287,523	
1999	280,222	
2000	258,754	
2001	267,351	
2002	243,838	
2003	236,250	
2004	261,573	

*Based on information provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Table 2: Number of Rabbits in Laboratories Compared to Other Species (2004)*

Cats	23,640
Dogs	64,932
Guinea pigs	244,104
Hamsters	175,721
Nonhuman primates	54,998
Pigs	54,504
Rabbits	261,573
Sheep	19,218
Other farm animals	31,956
All other covered species	171,132
Grand total	1,101,958

Table 3: Number of Rabbits in
Laboratory Facilities (2004)*Total number of rabbits261,573Total number of rabbits261,573No pain and/or distress148,125Pain and/or distress with drug relief106,447Pain and/or distress, no drug relief7,001

of Arizona, the use of rabbits in such research is waning because, as an herbivore, "the rabbit's normal eating behavior is different from humans" and, therefore, its cholesterol metabolism is different. Additionally, rabbits in atherosclerosis research are often given diets high in fat and cholesterol, causing fat lesions on internal organs instead of hardening of the arteries.³

Another common area of biomedical investigation that uses rabbits, despite their physiological differences from humans, is stroke research. One example of a procedure to simulate the development of a condition that predisposes an individual to stroke involves several invasive procedures. First, a rabbit is anesthetized, the inside of an artery in her ear is roughed, and a ligature is placed around the artery to decrease blood flow by 50 percent, creating a clot. After several days, the rabbit is again anesthetized, and the clot is removed, dissected, and injected into the carotid artery to cause an embolism. Treatments are given to try to break down the clot, and eventually the animal is killed so the brain tissue can be evaluated.⁴ The data generated from such research investigating disease treatment is dubious because the rabbit's metabolism, and thus drug absorption, works differently than in humans.

Rabbits are also used in research of the reproductive system. For example, scientists at Emory University are utilizing rabbits in studies investigating sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and possible treatments. Rabbits are also used as models for erectile dysfunction to increase understanding of the disease and develop drug treatments, despite the fact that their physiology and metabolism are different from humans.

Polyclonal antibodies

Widely utilized in both laboratory and clinical settings to research, diagnose, and treat disease, polyclonal antibodies (PAbs) are often produced using rabbits, and are implemented in a variety of ways. For example, PAbs can be produced so that they can be used in a specific area of investigation, such as cancer or HIV/AIDS research.5,6 Additionally, many manufacturers, including Charles River Laboratories and New England Peptide, Inc., will custom produce PAbs for their clients.7,8 PAbs are also used extensively in vaccine research as well as treatment development to combat transplanted organ rejection.9 (Please see sidebar on page 14.)

Husbandry

As with other animals used in research, living conditions for rabbits in laboratories are designed primarily to meet economic and husbandry concerns rather than social and psychological needs. For example, rabbits are typically housed individually in plastic or steel cages and fed a diet of pellets, and as a result, often suffer from social isolation and lack of mental stimulation. As a consequence, rabbits in laboratories will exhibit stereotypic behaviors such as chewing and scratching on cage bars and excessive fur licking and hair pulling. Like other animals, including humans, psychological stress can stimulate physiological changes in rabbits, some of which could alter the outcome of research data.

Conclusion

With their laboratory numbers exceeding a quarter million and over 40 percent experiencing pain and distress as subjects in research, rabbits, who are much loved as companion animals like dogs and cats, are forced to endure invasive procedures in the name of 'science.' Although rabbits are most often associated with product testing, they are also utilized in biomedical research in a variety of areas, including eye, heart, stroke, and STI research. Rabbits are also used extensively in polyclonal antibody production.

However, the reliability of data secured from research involving rabbit use is questionable when trying to extrapolate this information to human conditions. Vast differences in anatomy, physiology, and metabolism make it prudent to seek other methods of research investigation such as epidemiological and clinical studies. **N**

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Rabbits Used in Antibody Production

Antibodies harvested from rabbits, mice, goats, sheep, horses, guinea pigs, hamsters, and chickens are used daily in everything from basic biological research to disease diagnosis to home pregnancy tests. Antibodies are a normal part of the immune system, responsible for recognizing proteins and other molecules from foreign sources so that these 'intruders' can be cleared away. Because each antibody is very specific, having the ability to recognize a particular region of a particular molecule, scientists have discovered a variety of useful applications for antibodies beyond normal immune function.

Rabbits are scientists' animal of choice for the production of one of the main classes of antibodies: polyclonal antibodies, or PAbs. While PAbs can be obtained from other animals, rabbits are preferred because they are a convenient size, are docile and easy to handle, and are readily available. Currently, the only way to obtain PAbs is from a living animal, thus the widespread use of antibodies in science and medicine involves a substantial number of rabbits.

Invasive procedures that occur during each of the two main phases of antibody production—(1) injection of a foreign substance to elicit an immune response, and (2) blood collection to harvest the resulting antibodies—can cause pain and distress for the animals involved. The choice of substance injected during immunization raises particular concerns for animal welfare because various substances have been reported as causing severe inflammation at the injection site and pathological changes. Other concerns stem from how the injections are administered, the amount of blood collected from the animal, the restraint, sedation, or anesthesia used to collect the blood, and how the animals are housed. If these details are not carefully considered, the rabbits are likely to suffer considerable pain and distress.

Recognition of the impact that antibody production has on animal welfare has led several institutions and nations around the world to establish guidelines and protocols to minimize the pain and distress the animals suffer. Such recognition has also encouraged the development of alternatives for the production of another class of antibodies known as monoclonal antibodies, and will perhaps spur adoption of alternatives that will save rabbits from the pain and distress caused by PAb production as well.

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Is a Domestic Rabbit the Right Companion for You?

By Caroline Gilbert, Founder/Director, Rabbit Sanctuary, Inc.

abbits are of a peaceful, gentle, quiet nature. At the same time, they are fun and extremely entertaining, and they possess a great sense of comedy. They are intelligent, affectionate, and very beautiful. But rabbits are a companion of a different ilk. They are devout homebodies and are not fond of riding around in the car. They are not fond of 'walkies.' Being prey animals, rabbits are inclined to dart/dash and leap unexpectedly into bushes. Also, it should be mentioned that rabbits disdain playing ball, because, to their thinking, ball is the 'sport of predators.' The following are some helpful tips to consider when deciding whether or not a rabbit is the right companion for you.

Bunny Preparation

If you are interested in having a rabbit companion, visit a local animal shelter or rescue group. Or perhaps you can carry out your own rescue! If you know of a rabbit in your neighborhood who is languishing in a cage, no longer wanted by his owners, offer to adopt her/him.

Keep your rabbit safe indoors, and before you bring your rabbit home, make sure you have 'bunny proofed' your house. Rabbits are chewers, so tidy up! Get all clothes, shoes, books, papers, electrical, phone, and computer wires everything—out of your rabbit's reach. Not only do you want to protect your things, but all these materials (especially carpet fibers), when ingested by your rabbit, form an undigested mass in the stomach or gastrointestinal tract that almost always proves fatal.

Never leave your rabbit outdoors unattended unless he is in secure, predator proof containment that he cannot dig out of and that has a covered top. Also, it is risky to let your rabbit accompany you in the yard or patio unless you have a secure fence. Even then, do not take your eyes off your rabbit for a moment! A screened porch is preferable.

Before you bring your rabbit home, decide where you want 'her/his place' to be-the kitchen or other main living area is usually best. S/he wants to be with you and share in activities. Don't shut the rabbit away in an unused room. Select a convenient location for her/his cage containing feed and water dishes, hay bin, litter box, and resting area. Keep your rabbit in the cage for five days. S/he will learn that 'this is my place.' Then try and leave the cage door open. S/he will enjoy cautiously exploring the house but will always return to 'her/his place' to eat, sleep, and use the litter box. Additionally, try to establish a routine, especially concerning feeding. This will make your rabbit feel more comfortable and secure.

Good Health

Rabbits require large amounts of fiber to remain healthy. An improper diet is the main cause of many diseases. Chronic soft stools, liver and kidney disease, gastrointestinal disorders, dental disease, and obesity are all attributed to improper diet. Obesity can cause a rabbit to develop diabetes and heart disease. The two major components of a healthy diet are (1) hay and (2) fresh veggies and leafy greens. Commercial rabbit chow may be fed, but only 1/4 cup per five-seven pound rabbit. A small slice of fruit in season makes a good treat. A good resource to learn about rabbit diet is *Feeding the Pet Rabbit for Optimal Health* by Cynthia K. Wheat, DVM.

As with humans and other companion animals, preventative health care is always best. If you keep your rabbit safe and on a good diet, he should stay healthy and live 10 years or more. Be sure to select a veterinarian who specializes in diagnosing and treating rabbits.

It is also helpful to have a good book on rabbits available to reference when needed. *A House Rabbit Primer* by Lucile C. Moore is excellent. Also be sure to learn how to properly handle—how to pick up and hold—your rabbit. Because rabbits are easily injured, they may not be suitable companions for small children.

It is a good idea to spay or neuter your rabbit, even if you have only one. Your rabbit will be healthier since spaying prevents uterine cancer, and neutering prevents testicular cancer. Additionally, your rabbit will be more content, and unwanted behaviors such as spraying urine will be eliminated.

Rabbits are gregarious animals, so, if possible, welcome two or more into your home, and try to introduce them simultaneously. A neutered male and a spayed female is a sure bond, but often rabbits of the same sex will bond as well. Spend as much time as possible with your rabbits. These mysterious little friends have so much to share.

The mission of the Rabbit Sanctuary is to provide a HOME FOR LIFE for rescued domestic rabbits. Visit them at www.adopt-a-rabbit.org. **N**





What Rabbits Can Teach Us about Character-Building

By Laura Ducceschi, MA, Director of Animalearn



s we near the end of the winter season, we begin to feel the energy and potential that the spring can offer. For many children, the spring thaw

brings the opportunity to escape from their homes and venture out to investigate the new life that is growing around them. It is a perfect opportunity for parents, guardians, and educators to begin the dialogue of humane education, which includes teaching empathy and respect for the value of all life, while infusing character-building lessons into these young naturalists.

Children can observe and appreciate animal life in their natural habitat; they can understand nature's delicate ecological balance and their role in helping to care for the environment; and they can witness through direct acts of caring how they have the potential to make a difference in the lives of human and non-human animals. These opportunities for character development are not to be missed, since they help children add meaning to their own lives.

When many children think of

springtime, they envision the rabbit as a symbol of many traditions, and parents and guardians sometimes succumb to a child's persistence to 'own' a rabbit during the holiday times. Some parents wish to surprise their children with a rabbit as a companion animal, leaving the children out of the decision-making process. Unbeknownst to many parents, they may be doing their child a disservice by teaching the wrong kind of lesson about the appreciation and value of animal life.

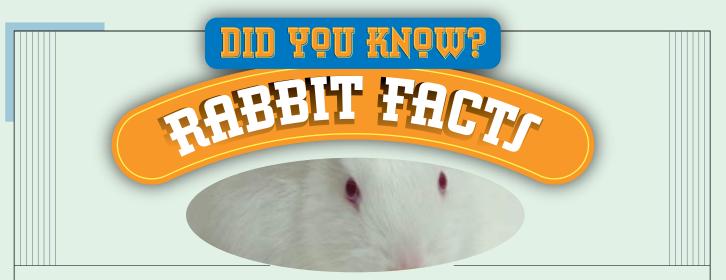
Some families are well prepared to welcome a rabbit as a new addition to the family, and make wonderful guardians for these gentle and deserving companion animals. The majority of families, however, get caught up in the symbolism of the spring holidays and underestimate the present and future care requirements involved in welcoming a new member to their family at such a busy time of year.

Unfortunately, this results in an influx of thousands of rabbits who are abandoned in the woods or brought to humane societies and shelters when spring fades into summer. Many of these rabbits are euthanized at shelters because of difficulty finding homes for them. To avoid adding to this problem, all of the responsibilities associated with having a rabbit should be considered before bringing one home. It is also important to know that rabbits have an average lifespan of 10-12 years, and will likely be a family companion for many years. And since rabbits are not usually interactive playmates for children, the novelty of the new companions can wear off, and the children may neglect the animals.

Because of this, it is important that we teach our children that animal life has intrinsic value and does not exist simply for our own needs. Families can begin new spring traditions by taking the opportunity to teach children to see beyond their own needs with the character building lessons of humane education. For example, parents and children can observe rabbits living in the wild, whether in their backyard or in a park. They can also borrow books and videos about rabbits from the local library to learn more details of how they live. Parents can purchase their child a toy stuffed rabbit so that children can become used to the idea of the responsibility of caring for a companion animal before a real one is brought home. Families can visit a rabbit sanctuary, and children can donate any spare change they received during the holidays to the rabbits living at the sanctuary. Parents can supervise their children in helping to clean up certain areas where rabbits live.

There are many creative ways that parents can use humane education techniques to teach children about rabbits. This opportunity can then be a platform for further discussions and activities about other animals.

Animalearn offers comprehensive humane education curriculum and presentations to parents, guardians, and educators who want to teach valuable lessons of appreciation and value of all life. "Next of Kin," Animalearn's humane education curriculum, is available for grade levels 2-5 and 6-9, free of charge. **N**



Humans have a very confounding and conflicting relationship with rabbits. They are exploited for meat and fur, and they are victimized as tools of testing and research. Conversely, they are also loved as some our favorite fictional characters and befriended as companion animals. Such a dichotomy in societal values is troubling, especially knowing that rabbits are highly social, inquisitive animals.

Most of us have met a rabbit at some point, or at least seen one in our backyards or at the park. But what do we really know about rabbits? As with people, sometimes having more familiarity with animals can help us appreciate them even more. Below are some interesting facts about rabbits.

- Rabbits are not rodents; they are classified as lagomorphs.
- A male rabbit is a buck, a female a doe, and a baby a kit.
- Rabbit pregnancy averages 31 days.
- Rabbits eat their own 'night droppings' called cecotropes, nutrient-packed, partially digested pellets, the products of the first stage of digestion. Not only are these pellets high in nutrition, but they also contain important bacteria that are essential for good rabbit health.
- Rabbits are physiologically incapable of vomiting.
- A rabbit's teeth never stop growing, and can grow up to five inches a year!
- There are 45 different breeds of rabbits.

- Just like dogs and cats, rabbits who are spayed/neutered live longer healthier lives and are at less risk of developing reproductive related cancers and other diseases.
- Like cats, rabbits can purr.
- A four pound rabbit will drink as much water as a 20 pound dog.
- Wild rabbits can be found on every continent except Antarctica. Although not indigenous to Australia, there is a large population of rabbits who were brought over by European ancestors.
- Some rabbits are capable of jumping 36 inches or even higher!
- Rabbits can be litter trained, just like cats!
- Rabbits sweat through their feet.

- Pine and cedar bedding may give off gases that can cause liver damage in rabbits and other small animals.
- Rabbits have been known to make friends with their dog and cat companions.
- In many different cultures, rabbits are used as symbols of fertility and rebirth.
- Because a rabbit's eyes are located on the sides of her head, she is able to see behind her. However, this also causes a blind spot in her forward vision.
- Rabbits live in warrens, a series of connected underground tunnels.
- Rabbits are naturally social animals who live in groups called herds. *w*



By Paulette Lincoln-Baker, Volunteers Director, RabbitWise®

THE PLIGHT OF THE MEAT RABBIT

TODAY, RABBITS DO NOT EVEN HAVE THE MEAGER PROTECTION OF THE HUMANE METHODS OF SLAUGHTER ACT.



he rabbit as a companion animal maintains a unique status unlike that of dogs and cats in the United States. However, each year, over

200,000 producers nationwide raise eight million rabbits to be slaughtered for human consumption.¹

Unlike house rabbits who, when nurtured indoors by their human companions, can live up to 10 to 12 years, meat rabbits can expect to live only 56 to 70 days confined in wire battery cages.² Most female rabbits are forced to produce five to eight litters a year, a physical toil frequently devastating to the health of both mother rabbit and her babies.³ The United States Department of Agriculture reports that "mortality when the kits are in the pre-weaning stage can be up to 40 percent." Enteritis (inflammation of the intestinal lining, which can cause fatal diarrhea) often occurs when baby rabbits are forced to eat solid food before they reach three to four weeks of age.4 Additionally, respiratory problems may develop due to premature weaning.

Separated from their mothers, the babies are moved into 'grow-out' cages. The 'fryers,' as young rabbits are called in the slaughterhouse industry, live nine to 10 weeks crammed into these cages (six rabbits confined to a space the size of a legal-size sheet of paper) until they reach 'slaughter weight.' They have no room to hop and play.

These conditions, interfering with a rabbit's natural behavior, result in rabbits biting each others' ears and plucking at their fur. Unlike cats and dogs, rabbits have no pads on their feet, so standing on the wire bottoms of these cages all day wears away at their thin layer of fur, cutting into the flesh, creating sore hocks. Many rabbits suffer from urine scald when forced to sit in their urine for long periods of time, and respiratory problems run rampant in such overcrowded conditions.

When the growing out period ends, rabbits are loaded into trucks and shipped, sometimes over long distances, to processing plants to be slaughtered. The size of the rabbit determines the method of slaughter. Per the guidance of the American Veterinary Medical Association, if a rabbit is less than 2.2 pounds, the most humane method of killing is by cervical dislocation.⁵ This is achieved by holding the rabbit firmly by the rear legs and head and stretching him/her full length. With a hard, sharp pull, the head is bent backwards, dislocating the neck. Fryer rabbits, however, are marketed at four to six pounds, rendering this means of slaughter difficult. Methods used to kill these larger rabbits include smashing the skull with iron pipes, slitting the rabbit's throat and hanging the body upside down to bleed out, and decapitation. Many small-time breeders sometimes kill the rabbits using pellet guns or by standing on a broom handle laid over the rabbit's neck, breaking the neck.⁶ In most cases, the rabbits are conscious at the time of slaughter.

Today, rabbits do not even have the meager protection of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA). This law, passed in 1958, protects only certain animals (e.g. cows and pigs) from being killed inhumanely. According to the HMSA, these animals are supposed to be stunned into unconsciousness before being killed. Poultry, however, was never included in the Act, and in 2005, the USDA's Animal Disposition Reporting System grouped rabbits with poultry to eliminate the requirement to inspect rabbit slaughterhouses.7 According to the USDA 2002 Rabbit Industry Profile, USDA inspection is only done at a few processing plants nationwide. Since rabbits are not classified as livestock, the USDA

inspection is conducted as a volunteer pay for service program.⁸

Earlier this year, East Bay Animal Advocates documented conditions at Cloverdale Rabbit Company, California's second-largest commercial rabbit meat slaughterhouse. Its investigation exposed some of the grim conditions endured by 'battery rabbits,' as animal advocates refer to the animals. These conditions included intensive confinement in wire cages, unsanitary conditions, and denial of veterinary care for sick rabbits.⁹

RabbitWise[®] is an all-volunteer 501c3 public charity that advocates for domestic rabbits. Please visit them at www.rabbitwise.org. **№**

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MEDIAWATCH



n November, the American Anti-Vivisection Society launched its End Animal Cloning campaign in an effort to stop the cloning of animals for food due to the enormous animal suffering involved and the overwhelming inefficiency of animal cloning. As part of this effort, AAVS petitioned the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), requesting that the agency prohibit the sale of cloned animals for food, establish an ethics committee on the

subject, and implement a labeling program should cloned animals make it to supermarket shelves. AAVS also released a report entitled "What about the Animals? The truth about cloning animals for food," which outlines our ethical and scientific concerns regarding animal cloning. Additionally, AAVS commission a survey which found that a vast majority of Americans, over 65 percent, do not approve of cloning animals for food and 87 percent feel that the government needs to open a public discussion on the ethics of animal cloning before permitting them to be sold as food.

On December 25, 2006, *The Washington Post* published an article citing AAVS's survey. Three days later, the FDA announced that it would permit the sale of cloned animals for food. However, there is a 90 day waiting period before the FDA gives its final approval during which concerned citizens can voice their opposition to this decision.

Please visit www.EndAnimalCloning.org to learn the truth behind the misinformation that the FDA and the biotech industry are claiming about cloning. Then inform the FDA about your concerns with cloning animals for food. The FDA is accepting comments until April 2, 2007, and the feedback the FDA gets from concerned consumers like you will affect its final decision. Electronic comments can be submitted at http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ ecomments. Written comments may be sent to Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD, 20852. Comments should reference docket number 2003N-0573. A sample letter is available at www.EndAnimalCloning.org. *N*V

Cloned Animals: It's About More Than Food Safety

While reading the recently published opinion pieces on cloned food (Oct. 22-23), I was struck by how the serious animal welfare and ethical concerns raised by animal cloning often get lost amidst the discussion of food safety.

For instance, do people know that, according to data from the Roslin Institute (where Dolly was famously cloned), over 99% of cloning attempts typically fail, resulting in aborted fetuses and newborns with such severe health problems or deformities that they usually die within a few days? Or that hundreds of female animals are subjected to invasive procedures to harvest their eggs or implant embryos so that just one cloned animal can be produced?

These are readily verifiable facts, not fear-mongering. Contrary to what proponents of animal cloning say, a clone is clearly not just a twin. At a time when consumers are becoming increasingly more conscious of how their food is produced and how animals are raised for food—issues ranging from organic standards, to additives and hormones, to cage-free eggs, to free-range beef—it is important to call attention to these hidden costs. Even if it is safe to eat, is a more uniform or better marbled slab of beef really worth it? Just because a food can be produced, should it be?

The more commonplace such genetic or reproductive manipulations become, the harder it will be to have a discussion about the ethics of such practices and impose any meaningful sorts of limitations. While the FDA's responsibility is to look at science and not ethics, we clearly need a forum, such as a federal ethics advisory committee, to more thoroughly discuss the serious animal welfare and ethical concerns associated with cloning animals for food. It is critical that this happen before the FDA makes a decision on allowing cloned milk and meat onto our grocery store shelves. **AV**

Nina Mak, AAVS Research Analyst *USA Today* Submitted October 24, 2006

FDA POLICY VS PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE

An informative article in *The Washington Post* discussed the FDA's plans to allow cloned animals to be sold as food and the public's distaste for such technology entering the food chain. Noting that some consumer advocates believe that FDA has "veered from its scientific roots...on political rather than scientific grounds," the author outlines the FDA's acceptance of cloning animals for food, despite public opposition.

First citing a survey commission by the University of Maryland's Center

for Food, Nutrition, and Agriculture Policy which found that only one third of those polled would purchase animal clones for food, the article continued, "[a] second poll, by the American Anti-Vivisection Society, which opposes cloning on animalwelfare grounds, found that two-thirds of Americans—and three-quarters of women—'disapprove' of cloning animals for food." The article further discusses the polling data, noting that two-thirds of respondents who originally claimed they approved of cloning animals for food said "they would disapprove if they learned that cloning involved 'animal suffering."

It is also points out that "the public is woefully ignorant about the science...." For example, the University of Maryland poll found that half of those surveyed believed it was not possible to clone farmed animals for food despite the existence of an "estimated 150 clones out of the nation's nine million dairy cows." Nearly 60 percent think that cloning involves genetic modification, when in fact cloning is the duplication of genetic material, not the altercation of it. **AV**

Risk Weiss *The Washington Post* December 25, 2006

STAND UP FOR ANIMALS AND REQUEST A COMPASSIONATE SHOPPING GUIDE



In October, the *New York Post* ran an informative article about class B dealers, also known as animal brokers. The article discussed many issues regarding class B dealers, including the methods in which brokers obtain animals and the poor living conditions in which dogs

and cats are forced to live. Additionally, it explained that class B dealers routinely sell these animals, many of whom formally lived in loving homes, to laboratories to be used in biomedical research.

To help concerned citizens take action, the article included several things that can be done to help alleviate animal suffering. Among those things listed was to shop cruelty-free. The AAVS Compassionate Shopping Guide was given as a reliable resource to find companies that do not test on animals. **NV**

New York Post October 22, 2006

Animal Dissection is Anything But Fashionable

In the Nov. 19 article, "The Sartorial Meets the Biological," a frog dissection kit offered from Jack Spade was described as "a sincere expression of affection for the natural world." On the contrary, I have spoken to countless students and teachers who find frog dissection ethically unacceptable and instead utilize dissection alternatives.

As a representative of Animalearn, the education division of the American Anti-Vivisection Society, I encourage Jack Spade to promote appreciation for wildlife by taking these kits off the market and recognizing the important role live frogs have in their ecosystems.

Marketing a frog dissection kit is not stylish, thrilling, or fun as Jack Spade designer Matt Singer may lead customers to believe. Jack Spade should stick to selling stylish men's wear and accessories, not frog carcasses. **AV**

Nicole Green, AAVS Assistant Director of Education *The New York Times* Submitted November 20, 2006

Fighting Animal Cruelty with Humane Education

In response to Bill Hanna's Nov. 15 article about two Texas college students being indicted for the brutal killing of a horse, I believe that a reactive response to this issue of animal cruelty is only part of the action that needs to be taken to prevent similar situations of violence in the future.

As the Director of Animalearn, a non-profit humane education program in Pennsylvania which focuses on providing free curriculum and presentations to K-12 schools and colleges/universities nationwide to eradicate the cycle of violence and cruelty towards animals and humans, I believe that incidents like this are clear warning signs that school systems need to proactively address problematic cycles of violence early. Research shows that violence towards animals is a proven starting point towards aggression and harm towards human beings. Humane

FDA, Ethics, & GE Food

Thank you for calling attention to the serious lack of labeling of genetically-modified foods in the U.S. ("GMO Produce: Safe to Eat?," Your Health, Nov/Dec 2006). The FDA's refusal to require the labeling of GMOs, which prevents consumers from fully exercising their right to choose what foods they want to feed their families, is astounding.

Now we are facing a similar confrontation over cloned foods. The FDA is considering allowing milk and meat from cloned animals into grocery stores without any labels at all.

The FDA has repeatedly stated that it will consider the ethics associated with cloning, including labeling concerns, but with a decision due out in the next few months, it has yet to act on this promise. Instead, the FDA has education is a preventative and effective way to deal with the issue of animal cruelty, and it is a proven technique in building ethical respect for life that extends not only to animals, but to humans as well.

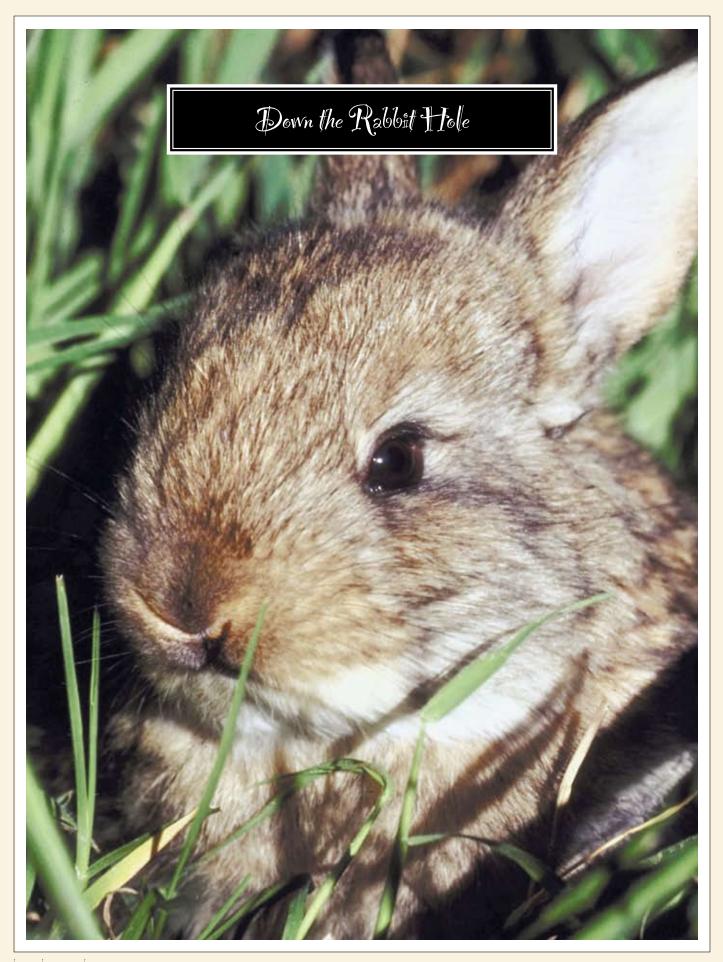
Organizations like Animalearn can help school systems address this cycle of violence early in a student's lifespan, and at no cost to the taxpayer, in order to prevent similar situations from occurring in the future. **AV**

Laura Ducceschi, AAVS Education Director *The Star-Telegram* Submitted November 20, 2006

already begun using the same arguments that it used to avoid labeling GMOs—that cloned food products seem to be virtually indistinguishable from their conventional counterparts.

Consumers need to let the FDA know that it is completely unacceptable to put these foods in our grocery stores. Distinguishable or not, cloned foods come packaged with serious ethical questions about animal welfare, food safety, and the genetic manipulation of living beings. The government needs to establish an ethics advisory committee to publicly discuss these issues before it's too late. We simply can't afford to have cloned products infiltrate our food supply the way GMOs have. NV

Nina Mak, AAVS Research Analyst *E Magazine* Submitted November 14, 2006



Living with our Wild Neighbors

By Kristine Rawls, AAVS Intern

As a wildlife rehabilitation volunteer, one of the animals with whom I most often came into contact was the eastern cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*). Although there are more than a dozen species of wild rabbit native to the United States, the eastern cottontail is the most plentiful, found not only in the east as the name implies, but throughout the south, midwest, and pacific northwest, as well. These shy creatures are plentiful in forests, suburbs, and urban neighborhoods, making contact with human neighbors quite common. As a result, orphaned and injured rabbits were frequent guests at the rehab, particularly in the spring. Inquiry phone calls about rabbits were also frequent, from well-meaning animal lovers wanting to know whether they could keep the fuzzy baby bunny unearthed from their flower bed as a pet, to frustrated gardeners desperate for humane ideas to keep hungry rabbits out of their lettuce plants. Here are answers to some popular rabbit questions.

Q. HOW DO I KEEP THE RABBITS OUT OF MY GARDEN?

A. Most garden supply stores, hardware stores, and even supermarkets carry commercial repellents, but their cost, effectiveness, and environmental friendliness may vary. Some experts recommend chrysanthemums or marigolds planted at the borders of a garden because their odors are believed to repel rabbits. However, the best method for preventing rabbits from consuming your vegetables is the installation of an 18-24 inch high fence of one-inch poultry wire. (Larger openings are easy for rabbits to squeeze through!)

Q. I FOUND A BABY BUNNY IN MY BACKYARD, AND I DON'T SEE THE MOTHER ANYWHERE. CAN I RAISE HIM MYSELF? CAN I KEEP HIM AS A PET?

A. In most states, there are laws banning anyone but a licensed wildlife rehabilitator from keeping native wildlife, both for the protection of the wildlife and the safety of the public. More importantly, babies who appear to be orphaned may just be waiting for their mother to return; mother rabbits feed their offspring at dawn, leave the nest all day, and return to feed them again at dusk. Finally, wild rabbits are easily stressed and have a high mortality rate when raised in captivity, even by experts trained in their care. The best option is always to reunite a baby with his mother whenever possible. If this is not possible, or if the baby requires immediate medical attention, contact the nearest wildlife rehabilitator or veterinarian for advice and assistance.

Q. HOW CAN I TELL IF A RABBIT NEEDS IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION?

A. The rabbit needs help as soon as possible if any of the following conditions apply. If the rabbit has been the victim of a cat or dog attack; or if physical injuries are present, such as bleeding cuts or puncture wounds, a broken limb, or obvious broken bones, he will need immediate medical attention. Other physical evidence that medical intervention is necessary includes crusty eyes/impaired vision, skin covered with oil, tar, or another unknown substance, or entanglement in debris such as a string, net, or trap. Symptoms such as staggering, convulsing, collapse, or unconsciousness require emergency treatment. You may also check for indicators that a rabbit is orphaned, including starvation or dehydration (extreme thinness or skin hanging loosely), skin which is cool or cold to the touch, and fly eggs or maggots on the skin. A baby rabbit should be plump, warm and healthy; if his parents are dead, he will need professional care in order to survive.

While seeking help, do not attempt to administer food or fluids yourself. If necessary, secure the rabbit in a warm, dry, quiet place, away from pets and children who might cause the animal more stress. For further information, or to locate the nearest wildlife rehabilitator in your area, see the resources listed below. **N**

RESOURCES

The Schuylkill Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic www.schuylkillcenter.org

Wildlife International www.wildlife-international.org/EN/public/emergency/emergencyrehab.html

NEWSNET



NEW ANIMAL ETHICS CENTRE LAUNCHED IN UK

In November, the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, which aims to raise the status of animals in academia, was established in the United Kingdom. More than 100 academics from both the sciences and the humanities from 10 different countries have agreed to be Advisors for the Centre, "the world's first academy dedicated to the enhancement of the ethical status of animals through academic publication, teaching, and research."

Regarding the widespread support the Centre has received, Reverend Andrew Linzey, an Oxford theologian and Director of the Centre, said, "The support of such a large number of internationally recognized academics underlines just how important animals are as a moral issue."

One of the core areas of the Centre's focus is the relationship between animal abuse and violence towards humans, and other projects include an online course in ethics, a new monograph series, and the publication of a new Journal of Animal Ethics.

"We must strive to ensure animal issues are highlighted and rationally discussed throughout society—we cannot change the world for animals without changing our ideas about them," said Rev. Linzey. "The Centre will



promote ethical attitudes and contribute to informed public debate."

You can learn about the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics at www.oxfordanimalethics.com. **N**

First Female Dogs Cloned in Korea

In December, scientists in Korea announced that they had become the first to clone a female dog. The Seoul National University team of scientists were led by Lee Byeong-chun and Kim Dae-yong and said that Bona, born on June 18, 2006, was cloned using skin cells from a female Fagan hound named Jessica. Two other clones, Peace and Hope, were born a month later in July. The scientists used somatic cell nuclear transfer, the same technology used to clone Snuppy, the first dog ever cloned.

Although the cloning has been authenticated, it should be noted that Lee has been implicated in Hwang Woo-suk's stem cell research, which was published in Science and was determined to be fabricated. Lee was suspended for three months by a Seoul National University disciplinary panel in July and is in the midst of a criminal trial for faking research data and embezzling research funds. If he is found guilty, he may be jailed and lose his job. **N**

New Alternative Could Help Reduce Animal Tests

It was recently announced that Entelos, a company that specializes in creating computer simulation models, has developed a "virtual patient" for Unilever, an international company that manufactures household and personal care products. The alternative simulates the skin sensitivity responses that result from exposure to various chemicals, and its use will help to reduce the number of animal tests conducted in product testing. In response to the European Union's upcoming ban on cosmetic testing, which will be in full effect in 2013, Unilever contacted Entelos, asking it to develop a mathematical computer model specifically to simulate skin allergies. Unilever has stated that it is working to reduce and eventually completely replace animal use in its company testing. AAVS will be sure to follow up with Unilever and continue to monitor its animal testing practices. **AV**

INCORPORATING THE THREE Rs

Federal Agency On Probation For Its Animal Care

Recently, it was reported in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that the laboratories of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have been on probation since late 2005 because of "serious program oversight and animal care problems." Reportedly, the problems were uncovered during an inspection by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), an international biomedical self-policing organization, and were serious enough that the CDC was at risk of losing its AAALAC accreditation. Laboratory facilities who carry AAALAC accreditation must meet certain standards and voluntarily submit to regular inspections.

The CDC recently posted an article acknowledging problems at its laboratories and stated that the violations were being corrected. According to the CDC website, violations involved infection control problems, multiple biopsy attempts on a single animal, and problems with water sipper tubes that resulted in the deaths of two animals from dehydration.

Ensuring that the CDC is conducting its research according to established regulations is extremely important, since the agency does such important work. The CDC is responsible for researching, tracking, and combating emerging infectious diseases like West Nile. Additionally, doctors rely on the CDC for unbiased recommendations on a wide range of medical issues, including when to vaccinate children and how to treat obesity.

Because AAALAC is a private organization, the inspection reports are not available to the public. However, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* has requested the reports through the Freedom of Information Act since the CDC is funded with taxpayer dollars, and the public has a right to know how its money is being spent. **NV**

Medical Journal States Animal Tests Unreliable

In December, the online issue of the *British Medical Journal* published a study that compared human clinical trials to animal tests. Ian Roberts of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and his colleagues, compared six treatment protocols: corticosteroids to treat head injuries and respiratory illnesses in babies, antifibrinolytics to reduce bleeding, thrombolysis and tirilazad for ischemic stroke, and bisphosphonates in osteoporosis.

Researchers found that in half the studies results from animal tests did not correspond to results in clinical tests. "Discordance between animal and human studies may be due to bias or to the failure of animal models to mimic clinical disease adequately," the research team concluded. For example, scientists found that corticosteroids did not help improve head injuries in human clinical trials, but did in animal tests. Conversely, antifibrinolytics did reduce bleeding in humans, while findings in animal tests were inconclusive. Additionally, tirilazad proved harmful when given to human stroke victims, although it was beneficial in treating animals.

Comparison studies such as those highlighted in the *British Medical Journal* are extremely valuable because they help reveal the limitations of animal models. **AV**

EU Implements New Chemical Testing Program

The European Union (EU) has recently announced that it is adopting what has been deemed the "world's strictest chemicals law." Known as REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals), the legislation outlines new regulations regarding 30,000 chemicals that are produced or imported in quantities of one metric ton per year. Under REACH, high volume chemicals must be registered, evaluated, and authorized by the Chemicals Agency in Helsinki, Finland. Hazardous substances that have safe alternatives will not be authorized.

When REACH was first developed five years ago, it was estimated that 45 million animals would be used in the program. In an effort to reduce this number, the European Commission, animal advocacy groups, and industry representatives agreed on practical ways to help lessen REACH's reliance on animal testing. Prime among them is the promotion and development of alternatives to animal testing. The Chemicals Agency will submit regular reports on the use of alternatives, and validated alternatives have been included in the legislation. (Currently, 23 alternatives have been validated in Europe and 30 more are in the evaluation process.) Additionally, all testing proposals that involve animal use will undergo a 45 day comment period in order to ensure that all possible non-animal alternatives have been explored, and companies are required to share their testing data to help avoid duplicative animal tests.

It is believed that the implementation of these practices will help reduce the number of animals used in REACH to 8-12 million. Although this is still an extraordinarily large number, it is one third that of the original estimate. Members of the Commission have pledged to uphold its part in promoting alternatives and to support the continued validation and development of non-animal alternative testing methods.

REACH will come into full effect in June 2007, and all covered chemicals must be registered by 2018. **AV**

MEMBERS

Dear friends,

Last year was a good year for AAVS as we welcomed a new Executive Director and began the task of creating new campaigns to challenge the many unnecessary uses of animals in laboratories that still exist in our seemingly modern world. Our hard work, which is not possible without your support, has enabled us to make 2007 a great year for strategically challenging the needless animal suffering in our country and around the world.

One of these campaigns focuses on the relentless and totally unnecessary use of rabbits in science and product testing. They are creatures we all know and love, they are among the most docile and gentle of our four legged, furry friends, and AAVS is geared up to put a stop—once and for all—to their presence in laboratories.

So here's wishing you all a great New Year and a big THANK YOU for your ongoing support of our work, not only through your memberships and donations but through your decision to be cruelty-free conscious consumers. You are the reason why we can continue to make true and lasting changes for animals in labs.

Regards,

Heather Gaghan Director of Development & Member Services



Tributes

In memory of 8 Foot Bix, the quarter horse, my good buddy and companion for 35 years and one of the family.

Jerry DeMarco Finksburg, MD

In memory of all the creatures who prompted my respect and pity, leading to my action on their behalf. They were and are beautiful in every way, deserving of our care.

Carole Rogers Clackamas, OR

In memory of Philip Trivigno.

Kathryn Lezenby Philadelphia, PA

In memory of Clavin.

Michael Porteus Dublin, OH

In memory of Maria. Farewell, best half of both of us, thou third who made us two one by being only you, pure dog....

Maria Epes Atherton, CA

In memory of my precious mother Mercedes M. Chop.

Carole M. Chop Palmdale, CA

In memory of Our Furry Heartbeats, my dearest friends, the animals; their loves have no boundaries and no imperfections.

Sandy Bell Jasper, GA

AAVS Memorial Fund

A unique way of paying tribute to kindred animals and animal lovers while making a gift in their name to help stop animal suffering. All AAVS memorial gifts are used for continuing our mission's work of ending the use of animals in biomedical research, product testing, and education.

Memorial donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. With a donation of \$50 or more, your memorial will also be acknowledged in a special recognition section of AAVS's Annual Report. At your request, we will notify the family member or other individual you have remembered as a memorial gift to AAVS.

Tina Nelson Sanctuary Fund

This fund was established to honor the memory of Tina Nelson, AAVS's Executive Director from 1995-2005. Sanctuaries and their work to provide a safe haven for animals who were once used in laboratories or exploited in other ways were a cause very dear to Tina's heart. She was a constant champion for all animals and was especially drawn to the plight of primates used in research. This fund will provide support for sanctuaries that provide homes for animals in need, and will also provide a lasting legacy for Tina's vision and AAVS's mission to end experiments on animals. If you would like more information on the Fund, please feel free to visit us at www.aavs.org and click on the Support AAVS tab to learn more about the woman who inspired the Fund and how to make a donation.

AAVS thanks all those who contributed to the Tina Nelson Sanctuary Fund during 2006. Thanks to you and your generous gifts, AAVS awarded grants to the following sanctuaries this year:

Jungle Friends, FL

This primate sanctuary and rehabilitation center received a grant to help support and continue to rescue monkeys from labs. This sanctuary is accredited by both TAOS and ASA and comes highly recommended for standards of care, responsiveness to needs of animals from labs, and conscientious management.

Mindy's Memory, OK

Part of the mission of this primate sanctuary is "to provide a healthy, safe, and humane environment for any primates needing care and treatment." This year, they were in a position to receive a dozen macaques from a lab if they could raise money for their housing. AAVS's contact with the sanctuary was very positive; their care for the animals is evident.

Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines, PA

Ryerss was awarded a grant in special recognition of the extra care that is required by several resident horses who were previously used in production of snake anti-venom at a pharmaceutical company; the help they have given to Premarin foals; and the valuable role Ryerss' plays working with local cruelty investigators on abuse and neglect cases, providing care for animals in emergency situations.

Animali Farm, CA

Animali was awarded a grant in recognition of their dedication and leadership on the Premarin foal issue. Their mission is to find loving homes for horses no longer needed in the Premarin industry. The sanctuary is ideally located to help with the Premarin issue, due to the predominance of horses and foals kept in the western U.S. and Canada.

Noah's Ark, GA

This is a unique sanctuary that incorporates a residential program for children in need as well as a wildlife rehabilitation center on the same premises. This facility is located near Yerkes National Primate Research Center and is therefore ideally situated to help as a place for monkeys who have the opportunity to leave research.

American Sanctuary Association (ASA), NV

ASA provides technical assistance to sanctuaries, awarding accreditation to those that meet criteria. It also facilitates placements for animals in crisis, directing interested parties to sanctuaries that might be able to intake animals, and helps negotiate funding and other conditions of transfer. In many cases, without help from ASA, some research entities simply would not even try to place animals, since they are not necessarily willing or able to research appropriate facilities on their own. ASA is all volunteer.

Chenoa Manor, PA

Chenoa Manor is a relatively new sanctuary and received a grant for general support. The Manor houses several rabbits from labs, all of whom are in an excellent habitat, including burrows! This grant acknowledges the Manor's commitment to provide a haven for animals from both agricultural and science uses.

ARDF UPDATE



LOOK BACK BUT KEEP GOING

This issue of the *AV Magazine*, focusing on rabbits, recalls the moment in time when alternatives hit the American scene around 1980. It was all about the rabbits then—the Draize eye tests for corrosivity and irritancy to be specific. Organizations like the AAVS and the American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research (AFAAR), founded by the late Ethel Thurston, stepped up to fund research in order to develop an alternative to the Draize. Companies were motivated to seek alternatives by waves of consumer protest, led by New Yorker Henry Spira.

s a result of activist pressure on companies like Revlon, Avon, and Proctor & Gamble, their trade group, the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, tried to prove corporate sincerity by funding an alternatives center at Johns Hopkins University called the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT). In November 2006, CAAT celebrated its 25th anniversary with a series of meetings and a symposium highlighting its achievements and noting changes in the scientific scene. CAAT's anniversary observance was capped by a social event that brought everyone together at Baltimore's fanciful American Visionary Art Museum which is featuring an extraordinary, one-of-a-kind exhibit on people's relationships with animals called "Home and Beast."

As one of the leading private nonprofit funders of alternatives in the U.S., ARDF participated in the anniversary event, represented by President Sue Leary. Professionals in alternatives research and development from Europe, U.S., Canada, New Zealand, and Japan reported on the programs at their respective institutions. England's new government-funded alternatives research center, NC3Rs (National Centre for the Replacement, **Refinement and Reduction of Animals** in Research) announced that 80 percent of their grants were awarded to projects developing replacement methods. The oldest of the centers, FRAME (Fund for Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments), also of England, has reclaimed its heritage and rededicated its resources for a strategic focus on replacement methods in the coming years. Representatives from Germany and the Netherlands shared their vast

experiences and observed trends and areas of opportunities.

Thomas Hartung, the talented Director of the mega-center, ECVAM (European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods), recounted the many areas of animal research, especially various subfields of toxicology, that have working groups of scientists assigned to hash out any and all opportunities to replace, reduce, and refine use of animals.

Dr. Hartung also presented his report on the startling scope of work done by ECVAM at the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee meeting of the U.S. government's ICCVAM (Interagency Coordinating Committee for Validation

ARDF's presence at scientific gatherings serves as a reminder, in the midst of the mountains of technical reporting, that the animals need urgent intervention and all good effort applied to their relief.

of Alternative Methods) in late November. Ms. Leary, who attended, commented afterwards that she hoped it was an inspiration to the U.S. agency, which is embarking on a process to develop a five year plan to enhance its effectiveness.

Ms. Leary also attended a workshop in November sponsored by ICCVAM on alternatives to the routine lethal dosing of mice in production of BOTOX®, or botulinum toxin (type A). Although most people do not relate intense animal suffering with this 'cosmetic treatment,' *AV Magazine* readers may know that BOTOX® is in reality a dangerous biological product that paralyzes muscles under the skin. It does temporarily alter appearance, seeming to reduce facial lines, but each production batch is tested for potency in lethal doses on mice in the LD50 test. Considering the exponential growth in the product's market, this translates into enormous numbers of mice who suffer painful deaths due to progressive paralysis. The company that profits from BOTOX® claims to be investing in the development of alternative approaches as quickly as possible. Science advocacy organizations like ARDF, and scientists in the U.S. and Europe are engaged in trying to ensure that is the case.

ARDF's presence at scientific gatherings serves as a reminder, in the midst of the mountains of technical reporting, that the animals need urgent intervention and all good effort applied to their relief. **NV**



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