



Patron: Professor John Coetzee

AIMS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANE RESEARCH INC.

- To promote all viable methods of healing which do not at any stage involve the use of animals.
- To promote the use of scientific alternatives in all forms of medical, scientific and commercial research.
- To help disseminate evidence, as it becomes available, that the use of alternatives is less costly, more accurate and more humane than the use of animals in experiments.
- To work for the abolition of all experiments using animals.

Welcome

For decades, those concerned about environmental issues were labelled “greenies”, yet today it is generally accepted that global warming is having a major impact on our lives and hopefully we are all making concerted efforts to save precious water, re-use our plastic bags, recycle what we can and generally reduce our “carbon footprint” on our planet. It’s been a long battle for the environmentalists, but water wastage, pollution and the like have finally become socially unacceptable.

Victor Hugo once said, “No army is stronger than an idea whose time has come”. I’d like to think that our time is coming too. Our cumulative efforts to illustrate animal experimentation as being scientifically flawed as well as totally unethical are helping these ideas gain momentum, and that one day we believe these will be commonly accepted views among the public and the scientific community.

Maybe I’m an eternal optimist, but I truly believe that our moral system will evolve over time so that eventually humans will understand and better appreciate all the other species that share this precious planet with us. It’s a personal theory that I refer to as “ethical evolution”. In the meantime we must accept that long-held views and practices don’t just change overnight and that it’s up to each of us doing whatever we can to help accelerate changes.

These ideas and concepts are slowly gaining momentum and the time is coming. I look forward to the day that animal experiments are condemned as a senseless anachronism of the past.

Until that time, please enjoy this current update of our activities.



Heleen Rosser

Jet and Buckley, our Green Ribbon ambassadors.

Green Ribbon Update

Green Ribbon Week 2008 was launched with overwhelming success!

In the last four weeks, AAHR members have banded together to sell hundreds of lapel pins and raise hundreds of dollars to help stop animal experiments, and support AAHR and Humane Charities. Whether you raised a lot of money or a little bit, it all counts. If everybody gets involved we can make a difference for animals in laboratories. AAHR would like to thank our [2008 Green Ribbon Week supporters](#). We look forward to making Green Ribbon Week 2009 bigger and better.

AAHR extends a big thank you to Brett Keys and the team at Active Display Group Australia’s Leading Point of Sale Specialists for supporting the Green Ribbon awareness campaign by donating their time and expertise to deliver our quality counter-top boxes. We would also like to thank Box Link Pty Ltd for their support and cardboard donation.



“In a corporate world that values advancements in eyelash enhancers over thousands of innocent animals’ lives, organisations like AAHR help to give the community the information we need to make choices. The cosmetics companies and research centres have almost unlimited funding to promote and justify their actions but little money exists to defend the rights of animals. By making more conscious choices we can redirect some of our spending in the direction of products and services (that have not been tested on animals), helping a necessary industry to evolve. Our power and voice as consumers can be significant by making simple changes like shampoo, conditioner, dishwashing liquid, soap and makeup, redirecting some of your weekly shopping budget into the market (where products are not tested on animals first) and helping the industry take a stand.”

Imogen Bailey, Actress and model

Expose: Forcing rats to consume ecstasy and speed at the University of Sydney - psychopharmacology research at its worst!

In an attempt to recreate the effects of the party drugs methylenedioxymethamphetamine, MDMA (ecstasy) and methamphetamine (speed) in animals, researchers at the University of Sydney and Macquarie University are trying to replicate the lasting social behavioural effects of repeated doses of these drugs in rats.

In one experiment published last year¹ 32 female Albino Wistar rats were injected with these drugs once a week for 16 weeks to monitor them for their reactions.

After 7 weeks of this drug inducement the researchers noted a decrease in social interaction in the chronically drug-treated rats. Then to induce stress and depression in these animals they forced them to swim for extended lengths of time.

And the purpose of this study? The researchers say it was to compare the results of this repeated weekly exposure to these drugs with experiments previously carried out in which they had studied the effects of a single day of dosing in rats. In their publication, the experimenters acknowledge the already well-known results of using both drugs (ecstasy and speed together) in humans and the severe long-term cognitive behavioural and neurological changes. **National Health & Medical Research Council funding was provided for this experiment.**

Unfortunately this is not an isolated incidence of wasteful research into the effects of party drugs in animals. Numerous similar projects have been carried out at the University of Sydney.

For example in another project² published this year, 59 male rats were trained to self administer speed from a lever in a high temperature enclosure in an attempt to recreate the heat in dance parties or nightclubs where the drug is often consumed and the ambient temperature is high. In order to self administer intravenously the rats underwent surgery to implant an indwelling catheter into the jugular vein and a screw assembly heat mount so that the number of drug infusions and lever presses could be recorded. The results of this experiment included hyperthermia being observed and that high ambient temperatures encourage higher levels of drug intake in rats. **An NHMRC grant was given to the researchers to conduct this experiment.**

And in yet another project³ (funded by the NHMRC) the same researchers attempted to replicate in 48 male Wistar rats the acute effects of ecstasy. They acknowledged, that in humans, regular use develops subsensitivity to the positive effects of the drug and humans thereby tended to escalate their intake over time. The researchers therefore described in this paper how they attempted to replicate ecstasy intake over 2 days to study the social interaction in male rats. Their conclusions depended in part on some assumptions about rats' motivation, for example, classifying rearing on hind legs as "non-social behaviour".

Also in this latter publication the researchers even acknowledged that **a different strain of rat could produce a different response** and suggested further research to compare the results in Albino Wistar and the Dark Agouti rat strains **"would be a useful exercise"**.



We strongly argue that this proposed research and the previously published research is certainly not useful! We vehemently oppose this type of psychopharmacological research on the following grounds:

- The attempt to replicate in rats the results that are already known in humans is a waste of valuable resources.
- It is unscientific to base this research on animals. Humans are simply not large rats and the physiological, social, behaviours and anatomical differences are too great to attempt to extrapolate results to humans.
- Notwithstanding approval of the projects by the university's ethics committee, they were quite clearly inhumane and served no purpose.
- Huge amounts of taxpayers' money (via the NHMRC) are expended in these experiments when it could be better spent on awareness campaigns warning people of the already well-known effects of drug use.

¹ Clements, KJ, Cornish JL, Hunt, GE & McGregor, IS, Repeated weekly exposure to MDMA, methamphetamine or their combination: Long-term behavioural and neurochemical effects in rats *Drug & Alcohol Dependence* (2007) Vol 86 Issues2-3, 12.1.2007 pp 183-190

² Cornish, JL, Clemens, KJ, Thompson, MR, Callaghan, PD, Dawson, B & McGregor, IS, High ambient temperature increases intravenous methamphetamine self-administration on fixed and progressive ratio schedules in rats *J Psychopharmacol* (2008) 22(1) 100-110

³ Thompson, MR, Callaghan, PD, Hunt, GE & McGregor IS, Reduced sensitivity to MDMA-induced facilitation of social behaviour in MDMA pre exposed rats *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry* (2008) in press

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please write to the NHMRC asking them to stop funding animal experiments and instead fund epidemiological studies.

Prof. Warwick Anderson,
Chief Executive Officer,
NHMRC (MDP 100)
GPO Box 9848
Canberra, ACT 2601
Or email ahec.nhmrc@nhmrc.gov.au

And write to the universities expressing your disappointment of such wasteful and futile research.

Professor Gavin Brown
Vice Chancellor
University of Sydney
NSW 2006
Or email Vice-Chancellor@vcc.usyd.edu.au

Professor Steven Schwartz
Vice Chancellor
Macquarie University
NSW 2109
Or email: vc@vc.mq.edu.au

Campaigns

Pound Dogs Used for Veterinary Practice at Queensland University.

One of the major campaigns AAHR has instigated and followed through over the past year has been trying to stop the provision of pound dogs to Queensland University for experimentation and termination. If you have been following our campaign, or for those of you that are interested, full details can be found on our website.

Following a story that appeared in Quest newspapers Queensland, as well as several radio interviews, we were pleased to learn that Brisbane's Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman, reportedly "alarmed" at the deaths of the animals, announced a moratorium and launched a review.

While this may be considered a small victory, we need your help to put further pressure on Brisbane, Logan and Caboolture Councils to end the practice for good!

Veterinary students CAN obtain their training and become more competent and compassionate carers without having to harm healthy animals. There are already alternatives available in veterinary teaching that allow students to acquire an education equal to those that use animals in terminal surgery. Use of living dogs is therefore a failure to implement the "3R's" (reduction, refinement and replacement) principle.

In order to provide hands on experience, veterinary students should instead provide (for example) a de-sexing service to pounds and shelters thereby providing a real benefit for the individual animals and the community as a whole. This ensures that students also gain the experience of observing and monitoring post-operative **recovery** – not the alternative! Let's think about it – do we really believe that veterinary students will be better vets because they've operated on, and then deliberately killed their patient? Or do we believe they may just be better for being part of their patient's recovery?

Students could also assist with and perform supervised surgeries in private veterinary practices on patients in genuine need of assistance – as is practiced in UK veterinary colleges.

Mr Chris Rose, Chief Executive Officer
Logan City Council
PO Box 3226, Logan City DC, Qld 4114

Mr Rob Noble, Chief Executive Officer
Caboolture Shire Council
PO Box 159, Caboolture, Qld 4510

Jude Munro, Chief Executive Officer
Brisbane Council, GPO Box 2287, Brisbane, Qld 4001

Also write to The University of Queensland asking them to use more humane methods of training their veterinary students such as those mentioned above.

Prof. Leigh Ward, Chair, University Animal Ethics Committee
University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld 4072

Can you help us?

As a non-profit organisation our work is dependent on the generosity of our members and supporters. Campaigning for change can often be expensive when we consider even the little things like printing, phone calls, postage, web updates etc, but we always try to minimise our costs wherever possible in order to stretch our resources further. If you have any skills or business opportunities that you are able to offer us, either pro bono or at a discount rate, we would love to hear from you. Examples include printing, laminating, graphic design, film editing etc. Please contact us by email (info@aaahr.org.au) or phone (03 9832 0752)

Members' Forum

Can you tell me where I can find information about alternative drugs that have not been tested on animals? I have discovered from your listing that the heart medication I am taking has been tested on animals and has side effects - which the medical practitioner didn't inform me of. I need to find an alternative/natural therapy.
Thanks
Marie

Unfortunately all medications (including natural/alternatives) have been tested on animals. You may like to refer to our article on this subject in our March 2008 newsletter. We do argue that different species react differently and so animal testing is not a reliable method of safety testing, but until we convince the regulatory bodies to accept non-animal alternatives (which are more humane and scientifically-valid) we have no choice but to use those medications developed through animal use.

Profile of a humane charity



Every day, NRMA CareFlight saves lives, speeds recovery and serves the community by providing the highest standard of rapid response critical care.

NRMA CareFlight has a strong focus on teaching and medical research. Since its 1986 inception, it has played a major role in advancing pre-hospital transport and critical care through specialist trauma training and development of life-saving systems and equipment.

Fundraising Director Paul Freeman spoke to Humane Charities Coordinator Emma Burgess about his role at Careflight:

"The most rewarding aspect of my role at CareFlight is knowing I've contributed to every single life saved or long term injury lessened in severity. Working with a fantastic team consisting of top medical specialists, pilots, crew and fundraising personnel is also significant.

The hardest thing is raising \$50,000 every single working day to keep the CareFlight Medical Teams and Crew in the air. To reach this target I rely on the most

fantastic supporters and donors in Australia; surround myself with the best fundraising team in the country; plan carefully; treat Fundraising as any other efficient, smart business; and do not waste precious supporter donations".

Currently, NRMA CareFlight is engaged in a major clinical trial to evaluate the impact of advanced pre-hospital medical interventions in the treatment of severe head injury, and plans to expand its medical research and education programs further.

Like other Humane Charities, NRMA CareFlight is demonstrating that significant achievements and community benefits can be realized by

studying our own species and abandoning animal models in teaching and medical research. As a registered charity; a significant proportion of NRMA CareFlight's funding needs are met through private donations like yours.



NRMA CareFlight

PO Box 159
Westmead NSW 2145
Tel: (02) 9891 6144
Fax: (02) 9891 1284
Email: info@careflight.org

News

Systematic Reviews of Animal Experiments Demonstrate Poor Contributions Toward Human Healthcare

The above article by Dr Andrew Knight has been published as an "Open Access" article in "Reviews on Recent Clinical Trials (Online)", Volume 3 Issue 2, May 2008.

AAHR was proud to co-sponsor the publication of this article.

The paper is freely available for full-text download via the web-links:

1) Bentham's official pay per view website

<http://www.bentham-direct.org/pages/content.php?RRCT/2008/00000003/00000002/0002RRCT.sgm>

2) www.ingentaconnect.com

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/ben/rrct/2008/00000003/00000002/art00002>

This article is an excellent demonstration of the futility of animal experimentation. We urge you to access it and use it as a credible resource when speaking out against animal experiments.

AAHR Membership Renewals

Annual memberships are now due for renewal and we need you to continue supporting our work by returning the enclosed renewal form as soon as possible.

If you are not already a member, please consider joining us, as our work to oppose animal experiments is dependent on your support. A membership application form is available to download from our website www.aahr.org.au, or alternatively, call our office and we will post one out to you.

Another victory in the US Medical World.

Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University (United States) has agreed to cease their use of live animals in experiments and replace with non-animal based simulators as of July 1st, 2008. This breakthrough came after extensive lobbying from the US based Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (www.pcrm.org).

PCRM is continuing to apply pressure on the remaining eight medical schools in the United States still using live animals.
Source: PCRM Online, May 2008

Cell Culture Beats Animal Tests for Irritancy Accuracy

A test method derived from cultured human skin cells is more accurate than animal tests at identifying skin irritants, according to a new report from MatTek, Inc., a Massachusetts company that develops alternatives to animal tests. While tests on rabbits misclassified 10 out of the 25 test chemicals, the company's EpiDerm™ method detected all 25 irritating chemicals correctly. *Why are we not surprised (Ed.)?*

Source: Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine "Breaking Medical News" 22 April 2008

Newsletter

Please note that in order to focus more on lobbying and campaigning, we will be reducing the printed newsletters to two per year. We will continue to update members and supporters through our regular email alerts so if you are not already receiving these, please enter your email address and sign up via our home page.

We do apologise for those that cannot receive their updates via email, but we hope you appreciate we need to direct our funds in the most efficient way so as to reduce animal experimentation.