



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

In this issue we introduce a new section – an expose of specific research protocols.

You may recently have received an appeal letter from us telling you about a particular experiment that occurred recently at Monash University. While I acknowledge the content of that letter may have been distressing to some, it is imperative that people are aware that such practices are indeed occurring, and that animals are still being subjected to needless procedures, despite the alternatives that are available and new technologies that are continuing to emerge.

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all our members and supporters who made a generous donation to this appeal. Subsequent newsletters will also include exposes on other experiments – providing our members and supporters with facts about current practices and what they can do to speak out against them.

On the positive side, we present what we hope is an interesting article on the Fred Hollows Foundation. It's always pleasing to understand and learn more about what can be done in important scientific developmental areas without the use of animals in research.

2007 is now drawing to an end. It's been wonderful to catch up with so many of you from all over Australia throughout the year and to have received your wonderful support, encouragement and inspiration.

I'm confident that if we continue to raise and discuss our issues in forums with scientists and researchers, in universities and conferences workshops at every available opportunity, and maintain our stance of a balanced, well thought-out and scientific opposition to animals in experiments, we will continue to build support and respectability throughout the industry. It is this respectability that is providing, and will continue to provide, a platform for further changes and positive outcomes within the industry. Unfortunately this change doesn't always come at the pace I'm sure we'd all like, but we have had positive outcomes over 2007 and I know we will have more again in 2008.

Until then, enjoy your newsletter and seasons greetings to you all.

Helen Rosser

Animal Experimentation - a necessary evil?

Many people support our work simply because it is cruel and unethical to conduct invasive research on animals, and while this reason alone should be sufficient, it is simply not enough if we are to engage in debate. It is important that we are aware of the scientific arguments against animal research and able to challenge the justifications of the pro-animal research advocates, otherwise we risk being accused of acting on emotion and stalling medical progress.

For this reason we have produced the booklet "*Animal Experimentation – a necessary evil?*" It provides an overview of the types of research conducted in Australia, statistics, legislation and protection, species differences, examples of where animal research has caused delays and disasters, why it continues and the alternatives.

The booklet is now available to download freely from our website. It is hoped that those who oppose animal experimentation will be much better equipped to speak out publicly.

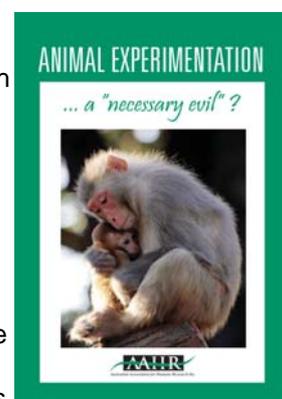
We are very grateful to Dr Andre Menache, Colleen McDuling and AAHR member Christine West for their assistance with this publication.

Annual/Special General Meeting

Our AGM/SGM was held on 24th November. Special resolutions were passed to "wind up" the Australian Association for Humane Research, however this is only a technical requirement in order for our organisation to be incorporated in Victoria (where we are now based and where the majority of our members reside). Our policies, campaigns etc. remain unchanged.

As a part of the distribution of assets, a donation of \$330,000 will be made to the MAWA (Medical Advances Without Animals) Trust.

If you would like to receive a copy of the annual report please contact the office.



Expose:

Marmosets in Brain Experiments



Researchers at the Physiology Department at Monash University, Clayton, are using monkeys in an attempt to understand the connections between different parts of the brain and responses of neurons to visual stimuli.

Although the researchers, in their own publications as recently as this year, acknowledge the differences between the marmoset brain and the

human brain these experiments continue at great cost - both in monetary terms and to the detriment of human health.

A study of some of the publications by researchers at the Physiology Department at Monash University has revealed the following experiments carried out on monkeys over the last few years.

In a 2000 publication¹, 6 marmosets were subjected to lesions on the brain resulting in scotoma (blind spot). The lesions were made by way of a suction probe destroying part of the brain. The brain was exposed by way of a craniotomy and after the lesions were performed the skull was cemented back in place and muscle and skin sutured back. After 3 – 4 hours the monkeys recovered their normal posture and started to drink. Several weeks after these lesions were made the monkeys underwent electro recordings of the brain. After anaesthesia they were placed in a stereotaxic frame (see diagram) and muscular paralysis induced and maintained while electrode penetrations were made. At the end of the experiment they were killed. In this publication the researchers stated that for “three decades controversy about the boundaries of the visual area in monkeys has absorbed experimenters around the world”. Sadly many years later and after many animal experiments this ‘controversy’ still continues with no tangible benefit to humans but needless suffering by the animals.

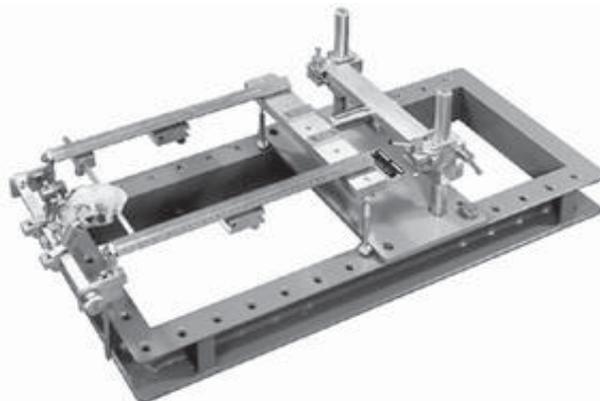
Experiments of this kind have continued year in year out at the University’s Department of Physiology.

In an experiment published this year², 14 marmosets were held in a stereotaxic frame while visual stimuli were presented on a screen in front of the monkey’s eyes and observations made measuring the activity in the brain and cell responses. Full details of how these marmosets are prepared for the recordings are referred to in an earlier publication.³

One of the most disturbing things about this experiment is that the experimenters discuss the comparisons between marmoset and macaque monkeys and note the differences between these species and the fact that that the brain of the marmoset is 12 times smaller than the macaque translating into different results. They conclude that the processing of visual motion is at best only ‘likely’ to translate to the organisation of the human brain. After 30 years of research, should we expect a little more solid result than ‘likely’?

How marmosets are prepared for recording neurons in the brain

Under anaesthesia a tracheotomy is performed. The marmoset is placed on a mat and its small head is secured in a stereotaxic frame to hold the animal completely still



The cortex is exposed and an acrylic wall constructed around the craniotomy is secured with screws. Rods connect the skull to the stereotaxic frame and the marmoset is chemically paralysed and artificially ventilated

Wasted Resources

Results from these experiments are unreliable as they cannot be reliably extrapolated to humans. The research carried out is for the sake of consuming large amounts of federal funding that could have been better spent assisting people with vision problems (annual funding must be spent by universities otherwise they may be in danger of having subsequent years funding reduced). For example, the experiment published in 2007 was funded by a grant from the National Health & Medical Research Council (federal taxpayer funded); and equipment was purchased with funds from the philanthropic organisations the Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundation and the ANZ Charitable Trust.

Taxpayer’s funding still continues with this year one of the researchers being awarded another NHMRC grant of \$442,875 for related experiments into the visual cortex.

We asked an expert for her view:

“Not only is this kind of vision research highly destructive to the animals involved, but it is largely curiosity-driven with no clear goals for improving human health as a result. This year in Berlin, Germany a researcher wanting to do similar research was prevented from doing so for exactly these reasons. Safe and non-invasive imaging research using applications such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), magnetoencephalography (MEG) and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) can be used with human volunteers, giving us directly relevant information, without harming animals.

There are numerous differences in the way monkeys and humans process visual information. Rather than improving human health, sadly this kind of research merely continues to demonstrate these differences. As a consequence we know more about the brains of monkeys than humans”.

Dr Katy Taylor, BSc PhD
Scientific Co-ordinator
British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV)

If you are appalled at the waste of resources in these experiments please write to the following organisations and express your concern

ANZ Charitable Services
ANZ Executors & Trustee Company Limited
GPO Box 389D
Melbourne Vic 3001

Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundation
C/o Perpetual Trustees
GPO Box 4171,
Sydney NSW 2001

Research Projects – Management Section
National Health & Medical Research Council
GPO Box 1421
Canberra ACT 2601

Professor Iain Clarke
Head, Department of Physiology
Building 13F Monash University
Clayton Vic 3800
Email: iain.clarke@med.monash.edu.au

References

¹ Rosa, M.G.P., Tweedale, R. Elston, G.N., (2000) 'Visual Responses of Neurons in the Middle Temporal Area of New World Monkeys after Lesions of Striate Cortex' *Journal of Neuroscience*, 20(14):5552-5563

² Lui, L.L., Bourne, J.A. Rosa, M.G.P., (2007) Spatial and temporal frequency selectivity of neurons in the middle temporal visual area of new world monkeys (*Callithrix jacchus*)' *European Journal of Neuroscience* Vol. 25, pp. 19780-1972

³ Bourke, J.A., Rosa, M.G.P., (2003) 'Preparation for the in vivo recording of neuronal responses in the visual cortex of anaesthetised marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*)' *Brain Res. Brain Res. Protocol.*, 11 168-177

Campaigns

Humane Charities:

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find our information leaflet about humane charities. [Our definition of a 'humane charity' is one that does not support using animals in research]. If you'd like extra copies to display in libraries, tea rooms or notice boards please let us know and we'll send them out to you.



I donate ONLY to...

Humane Research

How does your Charity spend your funds?



I Say **NO** to animal experiments!

Show your support for non-animal research... **\$5**

Wear a green ribbon!

We will also soon be launching our "green ribbons" – representing non-animal research and a way of saying no to animal experiments. These are available now for \$5 but will be launched nationally in time for World Laboratory Animal Week in April 2008. We hope that in time they will be recognised internationally and become as recognisable as red and pink ribbons – making a clear statement that wearers are

opposed to animal experiments.

Members' Forum

There seem to be many "humane" charities that are not listed on your humane charities list. Surely such groups as the Salvation Army or RSPCA don't conduct animal experiments?

Joanne Holmes, Victoria.

The purpose of the humane charities list is for people to identify which medical and health charities do not conduct or fund animal-based research. The omission of charities that address animal welfare, environment or poverty for example, does not necessarily deem them as not being 'humane'.

Pound Dogs:

Further to the update in our last newsletter, AAHR recently met with representatives from Logan Pound in Queensland and learned that the cessation of providing their animals to research institutions was only temporary – while they reviewed our submission – and has now been resumed. We have also learned that there are at least another two councils in Queensland that provide animals for research. The issue will be considered by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and we will continue lobbying the individual councils, as well as Queensland University (the recipient institution) until this unethical practice ends permanently.



Are schools and universities open to your suggestions to eliminate animal use?

Bruce Reading, Tasmania

The standard response we receive from any institution that conducts animal research is that they abide by the Code of Practice and that all research is approved by an ethics committee. Of course we know that neither of these is satisfactory. We believe the best way to effect change within universities is from within the institutions themselves. We therefore try to encourage students who are willing to push for a conscientious objection policy by providing any support we can.

Marmosets – the faces of research “subjects.”

UK correspondent and AAHR member, Hayley Prout visited Cefn Yr Erw Primate Sanctuary in South Wales and spoke with primate carer, Jan Garen. The following is a transcript of the interview.

JG: The primate rescue sanctuary was established nine years ago, mainly to rescue chimpanzees from Pencyrnor zoo when it closed down. Although other zoos are usually quite happy to take most primates, adult chimpanzees are never a popular option and no-one would take them so they were going to be shot. That's what started us off as a primate sanctuary as we were already here rescuing horses and other domestic animals.

HP: Can you tell me a little bit about the marmosets because you look after the marmosets, don't you?

JG: I do look after the marmosets, yes. The ones we have were previously people's pets. You are allowed to own certain monkeys as pets if you have a license in the UK but unfortunately marmosets do not make good pets. They live in colonies and they're not supposed to be solitary, and of course people think that because they're small and cute, they're going to be little cuddly toys for the children. Well, of course the first time the child goes to grab, the monkey bites and then they're not wanted anymore.

HP: Do many people have them as pets in the UK?

JG: Oh, hundreds and hundreds. You can buy them just like you can buy a kitten, and DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK) has recently taken, I think its 33 species off the list that require a licence, including squirrel monkeys who are about three or four size the times of a marmoset. You get people who don't look after their cats and dogs and rabbits properly in this country yet alone being allowed to have monkeys! They also have a very complicated diet.

HP: Have they? What do they eat?

JG: Well, they have powdered baby food, and then mixed in that, they have to have a special vitamin which isn't available to them in any of the fruits and tree bark in this country. They need a muscle developer, because they can get a muscle wasting disease. A lot of the nutrients that they would have in South America are not present in the foods that they have here so they



need these supplements and this is what a lot of people don't know and they can end up being quite deformed and die from this muscle disease. We also keep them outside so they'll catch insects. They are quite fussy eaters and there is a lot of fruit they don't like.



Pet shops and unscrupulous dealers don't always pass on this information. They may not even know it themselves.

HP: Do the marmosets here have names and different characters, or do you have too many to recognise?

JG: No, no, we haven't got that many at the moment and they do have different characters. We've got Smartie who was rescued from a place in Swansea, we've got Justin, and Maisie who is a real feisty little madam - pulls my hair every time I go in to take food.

HP: So they are quite different then?

JG: They are quite different and they're intelligent.

HP: And they're tame, you're able to go in and pick them up?

JG: No, you can't pick them up. You can't pick up any monkey. They'll sit on you but it's a definite no to pick them up. They're tiny and fragile and they don't like it.

HP: Last question. What do you see as the future for the primate sanctuary?

JG: (Laughs) Well, its constantly expanding and there's always, always rescues. We've been asked in the last couple of weeks to take 16 more individuals. Whether we can or not is questionable because of the funding problem. We've got the space but there are no grants, the lottery doesn't give to animals. We can only survive on visitor's entrance fees and donations.

Further information about Cefn Yr Erw Primate Sanctuary and ways to assist their work can be found at their website: www.cefn-yr-erw.co.uk.

Photos: Hayley Prout

Profile of a humane charity –

When was The Fred Hollows Foundation established and what was Fred's vision?

The Fred Hollows Foundation is inspired by the work of the late Professor Fred Hollows (1929-1993).

Fred was an eye doctor, a skilled surgeon of international renown and a social justice activist who championed the right of all people to high quality and affordable eye care and to good health.

The Foundation was established in September 1992, just five months before Fred passed away, with the aim to continue his work.

Our vision is for a world where no one is needlessly blind, and Indigenous Australians enjoy the same health and life expectancy as other Australians.



Initially Fred Hollows, an ophthalmologist, focused on providing eye-care to under privileged communities, however the Foundation now has a number of projects which encompass many other aspects of health care. Can you tell us about

the different projects you are working on?

Fred was committed to improving the health of Indigenous Australians and to reducing the cost of eye health care and treatment in developing countries. He started project work in Eritrea, Vietnam and Indigenous Australia.

Since those early days, The Foundation has gone on to work with countries throughout Africa, Asia (South and South East) and Australia focusing on blindness prevention and Australian Indigenous health.

In Australia, whilst blindness prevention remains a core focus of The Foundation's work, there has been a much broader health care approach to programs carried out with Indigenous communities in Australia since 1999. Health care programs focused on community stores management, nutrition, primary health care, literacy and education, seek to empower Indigenous Australians and improve their health outcomes.

What are your key achievements?

The Fred Hollows Foundation's key achievements include:

- Restored sight to over 1 million people
- Reducing the cost of cataract surgery to as little as \$25 in some developing countries
- Pioneering modern techniques of cataract surgery
- Setting up independent and commercially successful Intraocular lens (IOL) laboratories in Nepal and Eritrea
- Reducing the price of IOLs from over \$100 to just \$8
- In 2006 alone, with the help of our supporters, The Foundation carried out an amazing 73,838 cataract operations and other sight saving interventions. Over one million people were examined during the course of the year, providing essential eye care to some of the world's poorest regions.



**The Fred Hollows
Foundation**

Does The Fred Hollows Foundation fund any type of research, and if so, what kind of research do you invest in?

- The Foundation is currently working with the Centre for Eye Research to trial a new dipstick test for trachoma, an infectious eye disease endemic in many Indigenous communities yet eradicated in most other parts of Australia. This new diagnostic test is easy to use and enables even non-specialists to screen for trachoma, allowing a more targeted treatment approach using antibiotics. This new diagnostic test could potentially prevent loss of sight or surgery later in life.
- Research into the prevalence of blindness and trachoma has been conducted in several countries including Rwanda, Cambodia and Eritrea. The research conducted uses the Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness methodology and informs the planning of National Eye Health Plans.
- In 2006, the Foundation conducted a community-based research project to address anaemia and iron deficiency in selected Indigenous communities. The 'Sprinkles' project assessed the suitability of powdered multivitamin supplements for young children to combat anaemia, a condition associated with reduced immunity and slowed development in children.
- The Foundation has also conducted a survey into the socio economic impact of cataract surgery in Cambodia. This survey measured the impact of the Foundation's blindness prevention work on people's lives in rural and remote areas of Cambodia including how it has assisted in poverty alleviation.

Where does your funding come from?

The bulk of the Foundation's funding comes from donations and bequests from ordinary Australians. We find that people are inspired by the work of Professor Fred Hollows and want to see it live on.

Donations can be made at www.hollows.org.au or by phoning 1800 352 352.

Photos.

Above left: Professor Fred Hollows examines a patient while Fred's friend and Director of Tilganga Eye Centre, Dr Sanduk Ruit, watches on. Photo courtesy of The Fred Hollows Foundation.

Right: Nineteen year old Kamala Devekota from Nepal waits hopefully for the results of her operation with her son Mochanath whom she has never seen clearly. Kamala was able to receive free cataract surgery at Tilganga Eye Centre in Kathmandu – a partner organisation of The Fred Hollows Foundation. Photo courtesy of www.nicolabailey.com



Tribute to Hans Reusch



The Australian anti-vivisection movement is saddened by the loss of one of the world's greatest campaigners. Hans Reusch, considered the father of the modern anti-vivisection movement, died on Monday, September 3rd aged 94

A dashing motor racing Grand Prix winner at 19, and later a best selling novelist (selling millions of books, some made into Hollywood films), Hans Reusch also had a medical background and turned

his efforts to opposing animal experimentation. He authored "Slaughter of the Innocent" (1976), "Naked Empress" (1982), and "1000 Doctors (and many more) Against Vivisection."

The Guinness Book of Records listed him as the most litigated person in the world.

Hans Reusch was truly a pioneer and leader in the growing movement to stop animal experimentation. His courage and determination to take up the fight despite seemingly overwhelming odds, makes him an inspiration to us all and we are encouraged to continue his legacy.

Australian national statistics

The Australian national statistics of animals used in research and teaching have now been collated and listed on the AAHR website. At the time of posting, Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory statistics had not been obtained. In the 2004 year, these totaled 766,597 between them, which suggests the national 2005 figure to be approximately 5 million animals.

Tables of species, purpose of procedures and severity will be published in our March newsletter.

Nobel Prize-winning "knockout mice" already superseded by alternatives.

Gene-targeting in mice has recently been awarded a Nobel Prize for medicine, however the technique is already outdated due to cutting-edge non-animal technology funded by the Dr Hadwen Trust.

The Dr Hadwen Trust is the UK's leading medical research charity funding exclusively non-animal techniques to replace animal experiments, benefiting humans and animals.

The Trust warns that targeted gene disruption in mice is time-consuming, has low efficiency, can cause substantial suffering to animals and is of questionable relevance to human physiology.

Non-animal 'RNA interference' technology funded by the Dr Hadwen Trust targets and silences human genes in human cells and tissue. The method does not rely on the controversial use of embryonic stem cells and has the potential of completely replacing the use of GM knockout mice. Its advantage is that it studies the right gene in the right animal (humans) instead of the wrong gene in the wrong animal (mice).

Source: www.drhadwentrust.org

BUAV exposes undercover suffering

A new British Union Against Vivisection (BUAV) undercover investigation has exposed a "Guantanamo Bay" style prison for primates close to popular Spanish tourist destinations including Barcelona.

The facility at Carmales houses macaque monkeys, shipped from Mauritius, and sends them on to laboratories across Europe.

Footage taken by BUAV reveals the animals are kept in bare concrete and metal cages under searing Spanish sun which BUAV argues cannot possibly meet the animals' welfare needs.

Despite public outcry, the compound plans to increase its intake from 1,000 to 3,000 monkeys. BUAV is using its footage to support its campaign to ban the use of all primates in research.

For those on the internet, footage may be viewed at: http://www.buav.org/b2_postcards_from_spain.php

Merchandise

Please don't forget AAHR merchandise if you are stuck for a Christmas gift this year. Consider a donation certificate for either \$25, \$50 or \$100.

T-shirts \$25
Shopping bags \$4

Visit our website for more ideas.

