

# SCAW Newsletter

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*"...promoting best practices in animal research and testing"*

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## IACUC-Advanced in La Jolla

The Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) has developed a new, *advanced* program to train members of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC): **IACUC-Advanced**.

Following the success of the inaugural course in Philadelphia SCAW's **IACUC-Advanced** will present a one-day workshop in La Jolla, CA to be held at the Scripps Research Institute on October 11. The workshop will be developed around Core I, II, and III (see program and registration information on page 14-15). This format will let small groups discuss specific, complex topics that are relevant to IACUC functions.

This workshop is not an introduction to IACUC responsibilities and deliberations, but will focus on advanced training for IACUC members. Attendance at an entry-level workshop such as IACUC 101, or three years experience as a member of an IACUC is recommended as a prerequisite to **IACUC-Advanced**.

### Mark Your Calendars

December 9-10, 2002

SCAW is organizing a multi-day conference  
*Challenges in Laboratory Animal  
Research and IACUC Responsibility*

*for more information please visit [www.scaw.com](http://www.scaw.com)  
or call 301-345-3500*

### United Way/

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### Mission Statement

The Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) is a non-profit educational association of individuals and institutions whose mission is to promote the best practices of humane care, use, and management of animals involved in research, testing or education in laboratory, agricultural, wildlife or other settings.

**SCAW pursues its mission in several ways.**

**Principal among them are:**

- Development, acceptance and implementation of the best practices for the promotion of animal welfare with the conviction that quality animal care and use both improves the quality of scientific results and engenders public support for scientific research.
- Provision of an ongoing forum for the exchange and evaluation of scientific information about the care, treatment, well-being and ethical use of animals.

**Other initiatives of SCAW are:**

- Encouragement of the development and adoption of effective and efficient standards and measures of performance standards.
- Employment of communications media to inform the scientific community, institutional officials, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, institutional animal care personnel, public policy makers and the general public about the results of its activities.
- Cooperation with other groups, associations and agencies that have goals similar to those of SCAW.

### SCAW Newsletter

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# IACUC-Advanced

*Advanced Training for IACUCs*

The Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) has developed a new, advanced program to train members of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC): **IACUC-Advanced**. **IACUC-Advanced** will give IACUC members an opportunity to learn new information, to discuss complicated protocols with fellow IACUC members, and to keep current with new and developing events.

**IACUC-Advanced** workshops will focus on advanced protocol review and other issues, like what to look for in a protocol that includes relieved and/or unrelieved pain and distress; how to recognize and evaluate the level of pain and distress; appropriate end points stated in the protocol; special environmental conditions required because of potential pain and/or distress.

Pictures from the first **IACUC-Advanced** workshop held June 2nd in Philadelphia are seen here. The next IACUC-Advanced will be held at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA (see page 1, 14 and 15). For further information on **IACUC-Advanced** workshops, please visit the SCAW website or contact the SCAW office.

# News from all over

## **IACUC Training**

*Announcement from NJABR*

IACUC: The Charge & The Challenge 8, sponsored by the New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research in memory of Dr. Bruce Ewald, will be held on Friday, November 15, 2002 at the Merrill Lynch Conference and Training Center, Plainsboro, New Jersey. New this year will be tracks for administrators and information specialists. Call 908-964-9449 for registration information, which is available on NJABR's website after August 1: [www.njabr.org](http://www.njabr.org)

## **Antibody Production**

*ICLAS Bulletin*

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines on: antibody production have now been published on the CCAC website <http://www.ccac.ca>.

These guidelines have been developed by the CCAC subcommittee on immunological procedures: Drs Albert Clark; Dean Befus; Pamela Ohashi; Fred Hart; Michael Schunk; Andrew Fletch; and Gilly Griffin. The CCAC is grateful to these individuals for their valuable contribution during the drafting of these guidelines. In addition, the CCAC is grateful to the many individuals, organizations and associations that provided comments on earlier drafts of these guidelines. In particular, we are appreciative of input from: the Canadian Society of Immunology; the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science; the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine; and Drs. Terry Pearson, Mavanur Suresh, Ernest Olfert, Barry Ziola and Patricia Shewen.

Copies may be purchased from the CCAC. See below address for ordering information. <http://www.ccac.ca/english/publicat/pubframe2.htm>

## **Methods and Welfare Considerations in Behavioral Research with Animals Handbook**

*E-mail from OLAW*

The National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) has created a handbook, Methods and Welfare Considerations in Behavioral Research with Animals, to assist the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) in the evaluation of protocols that employ various means to manipulate the behavior and health of laboratory animals. The handbook may be useful to the researcher who is considering different methodologies for behavioral experiments. The report contains chapters on manipulation of access to food or fluids; experimental enclosures/physical restraint; pharmacological studies; aversive stimuli; social variables; ethological approaches; and teaching with animals. Full text editions are available for reading or downloading at [www.nimh.nih.gov/research/animals.cfm](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/animals.cfm)

Limited numbers of printed copies are available upon request by calling 301-443-4513 or sending an e-mail to [nimhinfo@nih.gov](mailto:nimhinfo@nih.gov)

## **AAALAC's Keeping Connected**

*E-mail from AAALAC*

The new issue of AAALAC's Keeping Connected is now online. Keeping Connected is a weekly compilation of articles, news, conference announcements and other items of interest to the animal care and use community.

To download your copy, go to <http://www.aaalac.org/members/members.htm>.

At the prompt, enter: User: accredit Pass: quality

Then click on "Download this week's Keeping Connected." The PDF file will open in a separate browser window where you can read the publication or print out a copy.

## **APV/ASLAP/OLAW Workshop**

*E-mail from OLAW*

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, NIH (OLAW) will join the Association of Primate Veterinarians (APV) and the American Association of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP) in co-sponsoring a workshop entitled, "Emerging Uses of Nonhuman Primates in Biomedical Research." It will be held on October 26, 2002, immediately preceding the National Meeting of the AALAS in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting will bring together top researchers from a variety of specialties using nonhuman primates in cutting-edge science. Innovative uses of these animals can pose challenges for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) reviewing animal study proposals, and for veterinarians providing clinical care. Emerging scientific uses of primates will be described as well as strategies for IACUCs and veterinarians to ensure appropriate oversight and animal well being.

The program and registration information will be posted at [www.aslap.org](http://www.aslap.org)

## **Article on Primate Research**

*E-mail from AMP*

Nature has come out with a major article on primate research. It may be found on the Nature website at [www.nature.com/nature/links/020613/020613-2.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/links/020613/020613-2.html) Registration is required to access this.

**Have YOU  
heard of  
IACUC-Advanced???**

## **New AMP Website**

*E-mail from AMP*

The staff of Americans for Medical Progress is excited to present to you the new AMP Website. We think you will notice major differences from the current AMP Website (which has been online since 1995) and all others related to the issue of animal-based research.

The AMP Website addresses all major aspects of animal-based research that the public and reporters will want to explore. The new Website features information from many sources and directs visitors to the sites of the best sources of information on related topics. In short, the new site offers not just AMP materials, but points the way to the best resources the research community has to offer in the various content areas.

The AMP Website will be updated with news and other items at least several times a week. Another very important feature of the site is that the strongest points for research advocacy are highlighted on main and key subpages, not buried in fact sheets or downloadable items (although we have those on our site as well!)

Please visit the site at [www.amprogress.org](http://www.amprogress.org)

## **New Website**

*E-mail from Fort Worth Zoo*

The Fort Worth Zoo in Texas, in conjunction with the American Institute of Biological Sciences, is proud to announce that the Fort Worth Zoo's Enrichment Online website is now active (<http://www.enrichmentonline.org>). After three years of development, the site is complete and available to managers of captive animals from around the globe.

The key component of the site is a search engine for taxa-specific enrichment ideas. In addition to accommodating detailed searches for enrichment ideas, the database is interactive and allows users to input their own ideas and provide comments on items already in the database. Thus, the site is highly interactive and capable of tremendous growth (so far we've heard from managers as far away as France, Venezuela and Australia and in positions ranging from keepers, research scientists and veterinarians). Supplemental materials on the site include hot links to other enrichment-related web sites, a list of periodicals and published materials, and a detailed help section. Please take a look at the site and give us your feedback.

Announcements about the site are being made via American Zoological Association and related list serves, worldwide zoo publications and species-specific newsletters, etc. We hope this site will be a valuable and comprehensive resource for laboratory animal managers as well as those in zoological institutions.

## **ANZCCART News Goes Electronic**

*Announcement from ANZCCART*

Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) News (hereafter called "The News") will be published electronically rather than in printed format this year.

Over the 14 years since its first publication The News has fulfilled one of ANZCCART's major aims, namely the promotion of informed discussion and debate on the use of animals in teaching and research. The News now boasts a readership of some 5,000, and has established a reputation for the quality and contemporary nature of its articles. We have become used to seeing copies of The News, with its distinctive designs, on library shelves and tearoom tables.

The decision to publish The News electronically will be reviewed at the end of 2002. In the mean time, instead of receiving a copy of The News through the post, readers will need to view it (or download it) from the ANZCCART website. This will take some getting used to, and we ask for your patience and cooperation during this period of change. In particular, we call for readers of The News who occupy leadership positions in organizations, to make multiple copies of The News for distribution to interested parties. By doing this, we hope to retain our readership base.

We are establishing an e-mail list for all those who wish to be notified when we post future editions of ANZCCART News on the web. Please e-mail ANZCCART at [anzccart@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:anzccart@adelaide.edu.au) if you would like to be placed on that list.

## **Tech Talk**

*Submitted by Amy Ingraham,  
Editor, Tech Talk Advisory  
Committee*

Psst! Got a Hot Tip?

Technicians!

Do you have a tip, a comment, or a thought that belongs in print? Tech Talk offers mentoring if you have never written for publication. We want to make it easier for you to share your knowledge with others in our field. In addition, you get a very nice "perk" of 4 Continuing Education Units per published item applicable towards your Registry credits. E-mail Nicole Brown at [nicole.brown@aalas.org](mailto:nicole.brown@aalas.org) Don't put this one off until later! Haven't you waited long enough? Submit your thought, tip or comment today!

## **GSK Laboratory Animal Welfare Prize 2002: Call for Nominations**

*RDS E-mail News Service*

Nominations are now being accepted for the GSK Laboratory Animal Welfare Prize 2002. Important contributions to laboratory animal welfare are recognized by the 2000GBP award and an inscribed plaque presented each year by RDS.

The prize, sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, is the largest laboratory animal welfare prize in Europe. It is awarded to an individual or group working in Europe for "contributions to improvements in the welfare of animals in laboratory procedures or recommendations or techniques which reduce the number of animals required for laboratory procedures".

A distinguished award panel will select recipients from nominations received between now and 30 September 2002.

For more information, please visit the [http://www.rds-online.org.uk/aboutrds/news\\_july02\\_01.html](http://www.rds-online.org.uk/aboutrds/news_july02_01.html)

## **IACUC Conference**

*E-mail from Texas Branch/AALAS*

The Texas Society for Biomedical Research is hosting a conference October 7-8 entitled: *Inventing the Modern IACUC/IRB through Benchmarking*. To receive a brochure/registration form please contact Lorraine Hough at [tsbr@realtime.net](mailto:tsbr@realtime.net)

## **Recognition of Pain and Distress by Animal Care Staff**

The Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) will publish the proceedings of a seminar held at the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science meeting in Baltimore, Maryland in October 2001. The seminar *Recognition of Pain and Distress by Animal Care Staff* was sponsored by SCAW and WARDS.

Please contact the SCAW office for more information regarding these proceedings. Proposed publication date is September 2002.

## **Scholarship Award Winners**

*E-mail from Metro NY Branch of AALAS*

The Metro NY Branch of AALAS would like to announce our most recent scholarship award winners. The candidates were chosen for their commitment to excellence in education within their respective Veterinary Science Programs. They also show a marked interest in pursuing careers in the Biomedical Research/Lab Animal Science fields. They were recognized recently at the AALAS Tri Branch Symposium in early June. Congratulations!

**Marissa French** SUNY College of Technology at Delhi  
**Lajla DeReus** Mercy College  
**Eileen Hagerman** LaGuardia Community College  
**Cynthia Bitoni** Suffolk County Community College

## **Guidelines**

*E-mail from ICLAS*

The draft Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines on: the design and development of laboratory animal facilities have now been posted on the CCAC website <http://www.ccac.ca> under the section "What's New" for review by CCAC constituents and other interested parties.

In order to be able to publish these guidelines within a reasonable time-frame, the CCAC would appreciate receiving any comments, suggested amendments or corrections by September 6, 2002. The responses received will be evaluated by the Facility Standards Subcommittee and used to draft the final version of the guidelines, prior to approval by the CCAC Council and publication.

Please be sure to take the time to read and respond to the draft guidelines, as the collaboration of constituents in the development of the CCAC guidelines on: the design and development of laboratory animal facilities is welcomed and appreciated. Responses should be forwarded to Gilly Griffin, PhD, Director of Guidelines Development: [ggriffin@ccac.ca](mailto:ggriffin@ccac.ca)

I would first like to thank SCAW for recognizing the technician's role in the whole scheme of detecting pain and distress. My talk is going to reinforce much of what the other speakers have stated about individual species, but if you are a technician sitting in the audience, you do know that we deal with many species. Instead of calling this the technician's point of view, I would like to rename it the technician's advantage.

The first advantage is that we as technicians do observe the animals on a daily basis. If you think about it technicians are one of the few who do observe the animals everyday, besides say, the caretaker. The veterinarians don't get around to see the animals everyday and the facility managers usually don't consider this part of their daily routine. So we, the technicians are solely the ones that other people and the animals count on and this is what

This is a presentation  
from a seminar sponsored by SCAW  
and Working for Animals used in  
Research, Drugs and Surgery  
entitled

## **Recognition of Pain and Distress by Animal Care Staff**

held on  
October 23, 2001  
Baltimore, Maryland  
at the  
American Association for Laboratory  
Animal Science meeting

makes our job become as emotional and stressful for us as it does. With the larger animals it is easy to do daily observations because in most institutions there are fewer of them. It is much easier to make an observation by standing in front of the cage and observing them in their natural habitat. With rodents it is a bit more difficult especially if you work at an institution with 40, 50 or 60,000 daily census. This is where the technician must work closely with the caretaker. I would also like to stress as the speakers before me that proper training is imperative. If during the day you observe a rodent in the cage, it will most likely be asleep and curled into a ball at the back of the cage. How would you determine if that animal was in pain or distress? If there is more than one mouse in the cage and one mouse isolates itself from the others you can make an observation that the particular mouse is not feeling well. This is why we need to work closely as a team with the animals' caretakers who at cage changing see the animals and can state the obvious problems they might see such as large tumors, ulcerative dermatitis, etc.. We need to have adequate training for everyone, so the animal gets the best of care.

The next advantage that we have, that everyone of us should have, is knowledge of our species and that includes all species within your institution. You need to know the basic things about the species that everyone here has spoke about today. The normal heart rates, coat appearance, posture, reaction to human contact which is very important with larger species that bond and trust the technician. Sleeping patterns are important but with rodents difficult because during working hours rodents usually sleep. With larger species this is a sure sign of pain or distress. If you have a dog that normally reacts to you when you enter a room, lays still and is non-reactive in the back of the cage a flag should immediately go up. Usually any laboratory dog will jump up and be curious about who is entering the room and coming to see them. The monkeys at my facility were so enriched they were spoiled. They were so conditioned to treats that if you only observed them from the window without entering the room they would still do tricks. It is obvious then if you enter or look into the room and this is not happening, then there is possibly a problem that you may need to investigate. With rodents again, I have noticed that breeding can also indicate signs of stress. If construction is going on in the facility the noise alone can be the culprit for losing pups. In a transgenic facility this can cause significant problems so you must pay close attention to the breeding patterns of rodents.

One of the biggest advantage we have or I believe is the biggest advantage is that we know individual animals and this is one of the reasons why I am a technician. When I became a technician years ago, I believed I really wanted to become a veterinarian. I am very glad I am not a veterinarian in a lab animal situation because I want to work with the animals on a daily basis. The veterinarian relies heavily on our initial observations. We are the ones who

say to the vet “I noticed this animal’s not acting right please come and see him.” You are the one who knows each individual’s little quirks and can tell when he/she is not feeling well. Also you are the one who gave it a name and only uses the number for USDA purposes. Most likely when you call the vet and tell them Sammy isn’t feeling well they will ask “Who is Sammy?”. What is important is we know who Sammy is, his normal temperament, normal coat appearance, and we can spot a problem immediately such as favoring a paw, not interacting with cage mates or not wanting to be bothered with you at all. You are the person the animal bonds with and most likely trusts the most. I know from personal experience this bond allows you to read the animal’s eyes and observe by the way it looks at you, it is trying to tell you something. Someone stated before they can’t speak but they can show us they trust us, their caregivers to figure out something is wrong and fix it. When they favor their paw they are indicating to you that their paw hurts, please help me. We have this great advantage over all others and we should embrace this advantage.

The fourth advantage is very important but I don’t know if many technicians know that it is an advantage that they have. It is very important for us to know as technicians what is in the protocols. We have every right to go and look at the protocols that are in our institutions. We can go to the IACUC and ask questions, we can go to the veterinarian and ask questions when we don’t understand something in a protocol. This will help us understand what to expect from the experiment. Are we going to see pain in these animals, are we expected to see any kind of changes in these animals because of the manipulation that has gone on according to the protocol? We also know what to look for because of the types of procedures that may be done on these animals. We as technicians all know what to look for regarding pain because of our training. The protocol will tell us how to alleviate that pain because the investigator has written a full regime before the protocol was approved by the IACUC. I like to state again there is nothing wrong with questioning what you don’t understand. It not only makes you smarter it helps out your animals. That is why we are there, in their best interest. We need to educate ourselves about the procedures done on them.

The one disadvantage I would like to address is the emotional aspect of being a lab animal technician. In order to give the best animal care possible you must maintain your own emotional stability and stress levels, your own pain and distress. If you come to work tense, cranky and not having a good day the animals that have bonded with you will sense that. You may hold them a different way, treat them a little differently or even lose your patience with them when you normally would not. So you really, really need to keep your emotions and stress in check as a technician for yours and your animals health and safety.

Recognition of Pain and Distress from A Technician’s Point of View

*Presented by Dawn J. Conover, AAS, RLATG*

Memorial Sloan Kettering

Cellular Biology and Biophysics Program

New York, NY

## Environmental Enrichment for Farm Animals

The Animal Welfare Act has been amended several times reflecting increased public concern over the use of animals. The 1985 amendment to the AWA, the Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals Act, provided for exercise in dogs and psychological well being in primates. While farmed animals used in agricultural research and teaching are not covered by the Act, those in biomedical research are. However, many producers, agricultural researchers and biomedical investigators are proactively approaching environmental enrichment for farm animals.

**On pages 10 & 11 are two presentations from SCAW's conference  
Improving Research Animal Well-being  
which was held in Baltimore, MD on May 16-17, 2002**

Depending on the type of research, farm animals may be housed in pens, runs, stanchions or metabolism crate systems. Animals in confinement may develop stereotypic or even self-mutilating

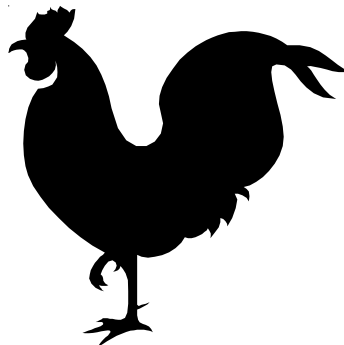
behaviors. Abnormal behavior patterns often stem from an inability to perform normal behavioral activities.

Environmental enrichment for farm animals may include manipulation of the social environment, the nutritional environment, the sensory environment and the physical environment. All farm animals are social species. Pair or group housing is extremely important. Human contact and companionship is, however, the most important enrichment for farmed species. Regular nutritive treats improve the human-animal relationship and provide interest for the animal. Research indicates that stimulating visual, auditory and olfactory environments may improve well being. Physical environments must allow for normal behaviors. The goal of environmental enrichment is to improve problems created by confined animals.

Research farmed animals include cattle, swine, sheep and goats. Dairy calves exhibit oral behavior needs addressable by providing balls, chains, and various toys fixed to crates, but most calves prefer the Braden bottle. Calf lollies can be filled with a molasses based grain. Young adult cattle confined to stanchions or metabolism crates should be provided with oral manipulanda such as balls, toys, tugs, etc. Adult cattle prefer soft areas to recline such as sand, shavings and even rubber filled mattresses. Like dairy calves, confined pigs also have oral needs. Swine can be given balls, large hard toys and plastic buckets. More often, however, these manipulanda will become quickly soiled and should be rotated and cleaned. Many pigs prefer stainless steel chains, pull tugs and balls affixed to pen bars instead. Swine respond well to food treats such as apples, grapes, dog food and bananas. Pair or group housing and visual and auditory stimulation from conspecifics is especially important for sheep. Sheep also seem to enjoy large hard plastic balls and cotton tugs hung from the ceiling. Human contact is especially important for sheep to reduce the stress of handling. The agile goat prefers objects to jump, stand and move around on such as vinyl resting benches. Most goats will manipulate hanging toys and movable hard balls and enjoy nutritive treats such as apples and alfalfa cubes along with a dry comfortable resting area. For all farmed species, however, enough human contact to reduce handling stress is critical.

*presented by*  
**W. J. Underwood**

Eli Lilly and Company  
Indianapolis, Indiana



## Enrichment Strategies for Reptiles, Amphibians, and Fish

While an increasing body of scientific information is becoming available for enrichment of conventional laboratory rodent species, relatively few studies have been conducted on ectothermic (cold-blooded) animals. Ironically, provision of appropriate structural and social environments is at least, if not more, critical in ectotherms, because most are wild-caught and not adequately adapted to a captive environment. Extensive literature is available on biology and behavior of many species of reptiles, amphibians, and fish in the wild; this information can be used to ensure appropriate enrichment for these animals in the laboratory.



Reptiles tend to be secretive by nature, and should be provided with a covered, secure area in which to retreat. Species that burrow should be housed in a substrate such as hardwood shavings, which allows them to engage in that behavior. Many snakes soak in water prior to shedding. Water bowls, therefore, should be of adequate size to accommodate the entire animal. Lizards and snakes that are arboreal require branches or other elevated resting surfaces. Most reptiles maintain appropriate body temperature by basking. A focally warmed basking surface will allow them to engage in this important physiological behavior. While many adult reptiles are solitary, young crocodilians, lizards, and turtles flourish when housed with conspecifics of the same age.

Amphibians, like reptiles, are secretive by nature and require a retreat also. Even aquatic species such as *Xenopus* readily use shelters in the water. Many terrestrial amphibians live in leaf litter or under objects; these animals should be provided with a moist, loose substrate in which to burrow or hide. Several frog species such as treefrogs prefer branches, plants, or other vertical objects on which to perch. Many adult salamanders tend to be territorial and are best housed individually. *Xenopus*, *Rana*, and several other frog species can be group housed with conspecifics of similar size.

Schooling fish can be frequently group housed with minimal substrate structures in the aquarium or tank. Solitary secretive species should be housed alone and provided with plants, large rocks, or other visual barriers. Fish such as fathead minnows can be group housed, but benefit from provision of retreats that allow timid animals an escape and that facilitate breeding behaviors.

Extreme variation exists among all species of reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Understanding the biology and behavior of the particular species to be housed in the laboratory enables the animal care staff to provide the most optimal environment for the ectothermic laboratory animal.

*presented by*

**D. P. O'Rourke**

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Knoxville, Tennessee

# Book Review

## Science and Conscience The Animal Experimentation Controversy

cost is \$3.00 and can be  
purchased at [www.nahee.org](http://www.nahee.org)

I try to read as much about both sides of the animal research controversy as I can. It is sometimes difficult to finish some of the literature that is anti-animal research, but I bite the bullet and do it. I finish it because to truly represent the pro-research point of view, you have to know what the anti-research faction says. Occasionally, you get a piece of literature that claims to express the pros and cons of the animal research dispute. Articles and books in this vein generally do help to look at both sides of the issue.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has published the resource book "Science and Conscience The Animal Experimentation Controversy". It was developed for high school students and their teachers. HSUS claims that this book, "explores the facts and issues at the heart of the animal experiment controversy". Maybe I am naive but that sounds to me like it was written with a fair, relatively unbiased point of view. If this is what HSUS wanted I am afraid they failed.

I have used literature from HSUS for classes I have taught and for the most part, their publications are well written. When I was asked to review this book, I was expecting an edition as well done as the others I have seen. Unfortunately I was disappointed. I realize that to be totally objective is difficult even if all the facts are given, the writer will still leave the readers to make their own decision.

I am most concerned with this book because HSUS did not represent all the facts properly, nor does it seem that they tried to hard. For instance, the book mentions "invasive procedures that may cause pain or distress to animals" a number of times, yet does not mention that the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires appropriate analgesics, anesthetics or painkillers have to be provided. I would think that the AWA would take on a more important role in a publication that claims to show the facts and issues. The book is 43 pages long, yet the AWA is not mentioned until two-thirds of the way through the book.

In the section on the AWA the book gives a brief history of the act, and describes a handful of the amendments concerning anesthetics, environmental and social needs, the required duties of the IACUC, the nonaffiliated member of the IACUC and a few other particulars. The section then goes on to describe how the Act has had such little success in enforcing what it is supposed to protect.

According to the book, the USDA, which not only develops but enforces laws under the AWA, has been criticized for failing to protect against pet theft by ignoring repeated violations by Class B dealers. It goes on to say that the USDA has had more success in recent years in policing Class B dealers, but I cannot help to think that the first statement would have more of a negative effect on readers than any follow up statement.

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In a section on sources of animals for research, the following statement is made, “about half of the cats and dogs used in laboratories are obtained from animal shelters, pounds, or brokers who acquire them at auctions or through “free to good home” (their quotes) newspaper ads”. That last portion does not sound like a responsible statement in a book exploring the facts. It sounds more like a statement printed in a tabloid looking to sell more papers!

In a section on product testing, it states that federal law does not require that animals be used in testing of most personal care products, but some cosmetics manufacturers continue to use animals in their testing. One reason given is because the government has not established clear guidelines for the development, evaluation and approval of alternatives. What about the manufacturers who have independently sought alternatives, simply because it can be more economical, faster, and more accurate?!

In the section titled, “Animals in Education”, claims are made that “many” teachers and students feel that dissection does little, if anything, to the understanding of biological processes and that dissection is incompatible with the teaching of biology. As a teacher myself, on numerous occasions “many” students have told me that they got so much more from dissecting a real animal. I guess it depends on your definition of “many”.

The “Pain and Distress” section states that only in the past decade did administering painkillers to rodents become acceptable practice in laboratory experiments. I have been in the field for over twenty years, and I have been using analgesics far longer than ten years, and I know I am not alone! “Animal distress that isn’t necessarily the result of pain is still largely ignored or overlooked by research institutions” this is on page 18. On page 33, environmental and social needs are discussed as being required by the AWA. Aren’t these connected? What is more distressful than environmental or social deficits? Did the writer miss this inconsistency? I doubt it. HSUS has too many well-educated personnel on their staff to fail to catch this obvious discrepancy.

The section on “Alternatives” is fairly comprehensive, it mentions the Three “R”s of research and gives many alternatives. It also mentions the Russell and Burch Award which they present every three years to a scientist(s) who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of alternatives.

“Science and Conscience” does have commendable sections, their resource section gives a fairly comprehensive list of sources for further study as does the alternatives section. Unfortunately, the weaknesses of the book far outshadow the strengths. If HSUS really wanted to publish an exploration of “Facts and Issues” at the heart of the animal experimentation controversy, why did they not approach an organization such as SCAW, to review the book prior to publishing? Or have someone in the field write a section or two? USDA could have written a more complete section on the history and requirements of the AWA. They did not do that. Which makes me think that either they chose to give the biased opinion they presented or they did not have the foresight to anticipate the possibility that the book would come out one-sided. Either choice is a disappointment. HSUS has always seemed to be one of the, “middle of the road” organizations who used facts to express their opinions, rather than sensationalism and misinformation to promote their philosophy. I truly hope that other organizations and societies which publish literature for school age children and their teachers concerning the animal research debate use facts and information that truly expresses the circumstances under which animal research is done, and stays away from the melodramatic “facts” that prejudices readers opinions.

I am truly disappointed in HSUS for biasing their publication in the manner they used. I expected more from an organization with the history of animal welfare they have had for the past 47 years.

*Reviewed by John Salig*

# IACUC-Advanced

## La Jolla, CA

### Program

Friday, October 11, 2002

- 8:00 Registration/Coffee and muffins
- 8:45 Welcome by SCAW and the Scripps Research Institute
- 8:50 Introduction to IACUC-Advanced
- 9:00 **Core I Presentation**  
*Mechanics of IACUC Functions and Development*
- 9:45 **Core II Presentation**  
*IACUC Protocol Review*
- 10:45 Beverage break
- 11:00 **Core III Presentation**  
*Special Advanced Topics*
- First Discussion Session**
- The Role of the IACUC Administrator
  - Investigator and Staff Training: How to Develop a Program and Make it Work
  - Review of Pain Models for IACUC Protocols
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 **Second Discussion Session**
- Scientific Merit and IACUC Responsibility: When Does the IACUC Step In?
  - When are Unrelieved Pain and Distress Acceptable? And Why Do We Need Endpoints?
  - AAALAC Accreditation
- 1:45 Beverage Break
- 2:15 **Third Discussion Session**
- Improving the Role of Nonaffiliated IACUC Members
  - How does the IACUC Address Ethical Concerns
  - Enrichment for Marine Species
- 4:15 General Closing Session
- 4:30 End of Workshop

# Registration Form for IACUC-Advanced Workshops

## Registration Fees:

Single Registration 180.00

SCAW Institutional Members 150.00

*There will be no refunds of registration fees.*

Name:

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I will pay for my registration with:

Check or Money order    Master Card    Visa

Make checks payable to SCAW. Payment must be in U.S. funds and payable on a U.S. bank.

American Express is not accepted. There will be no refunds of registration fees.

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name of cardholder (please print):

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Please return registration fees along with this form to:

**Scientists Center for Animal Welfare**  
7833 Walker Drive, Suite 410  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-345-3500 301-345-3503 fax

**Circle one**

## 2003 Locations/Dates of IACUC-Advanced Workshops

**Clearwater Beach, FL**

**March 7, 2003**

Adams Mark Hotel

**Minneapolis, MN**

**June 2, 2003**

University of Minnesota

McNamara Alumni Center

**Bethesda, MD**

**October 28, 2003**

National Institutes of Health

Natcher Conference Center

### Special Needs:

Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the SCAW office prior to the workshop. SCAW is in compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

SCAW is organizing a multi-day conference on

### *Challenges in Laboratory Animal Research and IACUC Responsibility*

to be held at the Monteleone Hotel in  
New Orleans, LA on December 9-10, 2002.

**SCAW is seeking sponsors for this conference from different organizations, companies and foundations that encourage improvements to animal welfare beyond the minimum requirements.**

For more information please visit [www.scaw.com](http://www.scaw.com) or call 301-345-3500.

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To find out more please visit

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for more information