



October 20, 2017

## **“More Institutional Support for Animal Research Is Needed” Says SfN CAR Chair**

Yesterday, Mar Sanchez, chair of the Committee on Animals in Research at the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), [wrote an exhilarating essay](#) in *Inside Higher Ed* about the critical nature of animal research and how research institutions can, and must, do more to defend and promote their scientists.

In the essay Sanchez writes: “Institutional support is pivotal to the continuance of scientific discoveries. By taking a proactive approach to communicating the vital need for animal research, institutions help ensure researchers can focus on valuable work that could lead to the discovery of promising treatments for vast unmet medical needs and improve the lives and health of people and also animals around the world.”

[Click here to read the full essay.](#) We encourage you to post a positive comment and share this piece with others and on social media.

## **USDA Extends Comment Period for Licensing Requirements**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today announced an extension of the public comment period for its notice on potential revisions to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) licensing requirements. The agency is soliciting public comments to reduce regulatory burden and ensure sustained compliance of licensees. The comment period for [“Animal Welfare; Procedures for Applying for Licenses and Renewals,” Docket No. APHIS-2017-0062](#), will now be open until Thursday, November 2. NABR posted its comments last week and [they can be viewed here](#) to help you draft yours. We encourage you to join the 35,000 others who have submitted comments thus far.

## **Thank You for Visiting NABR’s Booth at AALAS**

This week marked another successful American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) conference. Thank you to all NABR members and affiliates who stopped by our booth to say “hello” and to those who sent a letter to Congress opposing proposals by animal rights activists to defund research with dogs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). If you have not had a chance to send our pre-formatted letter to your Representatives and Senators, [please follow this link](#). It takes just a few seconds but will help make a huge difference.

## **ALDF Ruling in Wisconsin Reversed: UW Must Share IACUC Notes**

The 4th District Court of Appeals in Wisconsin [reversed a ruling](#) on Thursday that will require the University of Wisconsin-Madison to share 10 documents from a March 2014 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) meeting on primate research with the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), per Wisconsin’s open records law.

Last year, a Dane County, WI judge ruled that ALDF was not entitled to the documents because they were notes from the meeting and were created for personal use by the staffer. This ruling was reversed on Thursday because the court ruled the notes were emailed to other staffers and are thereby considered public records.

## **CNN Video Highlights Importance of Monkey Research**

Last week, [CNN aired a video](#) highlighting the importance of research with rhesus macaques on “Monkey Island,” an island off the East Coast of Puerto Rico. The video explains Hurricane Maria destroyed all man-made structures on the island and the monkey colony has been affected.

The monkeys are being used to study psychology and the project is delayed for at least one year as researchers are unable to collect data. The colony of rhesus macaques has led to numerous medical discoveries and losing the colony could have negative consequences to human health and threaten breakthroughs in understanding the human brain, including conditions like autism.

## **Appeals Court Affirms Hendry County’s Approval of Primate Breeding Facilities**

Hendry County, FL has at least one claim to fame: it is the primate breeding capital of the country. There are four breeding facilities in the county with a combined capacity of 10,000 primates. The animals are enormously important to medical and scientific research; they are used in studies ranging from FDA-required testing to projects related to Alzheimer’s disease and AIDS. However two of the four facilities were recently [pulled into lawsuits by anti-research animal activists](#). Representing the ALDF, the activists alleged the county approved the facilities without warning residents in the area, thus violating Florida’s “Sunshine Law.”

This latest dispute was an appeal from a 2014 decision that ruled in favor of the county. The county maintained the approvals for these facilities were no different than any other farm and do not require public hearings or advance public notice. County officials argue primate breeding facilities are allowed in the agriculture zoning district because they fall under “animal husbandry,” and any species is permitted so long as the land is zoned for agriculture. The circuit court agreed and [found Hendry County had not violated](#) the state’s Sunshine Law. The activist group appealed, only to face a similar ruling in the appeals court. A panel of three judges from Florida’s Second District Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court’s ruling, precluding further appeals.

## **Canadian Medics: Keep Live Pigs for Trauma Training**

A [new study](#) by Canadian researchers highlights the value of live tissue in trauma training. As Canadian medics who served in combat in Afghanistan shared, “The first time a medic gets blood on their hands and tries a life-saving procedure should not be on a fellow soldier with their friends looking on.”

The study, authored by Canadian Forces members and National Defence Department employees, was published in *Military Medicine* this month. The authors recommend that live animals remain a component of combat training.

Forces spokesperson Jennifer Eckersley [told National Post](#): “This training has saved soldiers’ lives. We conduct this training in as humane a way as possible. There is an individual that must be present throughout the training, whose only responsibility is to ensure the animal does not suffer.”

To read the full article in *National Post*, [click here](#). To read the study, [click here](#).

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# Registration Available for SCAW Workshop on IACUC Oversight in Fish and Wildlife Research

Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) will be hosting its conference, [“Meeting the Challenges of IACUC Oversight in Fish and Wildlife Research,”](#) from October 30 to November 1, 2017 in San Diego, CA. The conference is intended to foster a robust conversation among researchers, IACUC members, and government officials that will lead to more meaningful and appropriate applications of animal welfare laws in the context of wildlife research and, in turn, to improve care and use of wild animals in wildlife research. Topics will include: animal welfare basics, laboratory animal welfare associations, fish and wildlife guidelines, key elements of an effective IACUC, and more.

The conference will bring representatives from institutions that conduct field research together with the agencies that fund, regulate, or conduct such research, providing a unique opportunity for productive interaction and discussion of respective jurisdictions, regulations, and best practices. This conference is recommended for institutions that wish to more effectively facilitate and appropriately oversee wildlife research.

This conference will provide a forum for open discussion and exploration of common issues and best practices. To register, [please click here.](#)

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