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The NABR Update is a news summary of federal and state government affairs, animal rights activities, and other issues related to animal research that may have a direct effect on your organization or its constituents. It's an exclusive service available for NABR members only. If your organization is interested in joining NABR or if you have any questions or suggestions, please email us at info@nabr.org.

Long-Tailed Macaque Update

Timeline of Events: NABR's Formal Petition Challenging the IUCN Red List Long-Tailed Macaque by the IUCN – Latest Filing Monday

Working with recognized, independent scientists, the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) filed an initial petition on June 15, 2023 with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) challenging its designation of the long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) as endangered under IUCN listing criteria. This designation is a result of improperly used data that do not support the characterization that the species is endangered. NABR called for an immediate review. Read more by clicking [here](#).

After several weeks of informal discussions between NABR and IUCN assessors, on September 11, 2023, NABR subsequently filed a formal petition

with the IUCN challenging the organization's decision to uplist the status of the long-tailed macaque from "vulnerable" to "endangered." Read NABR's formal IUCN petition and the addendum to NABR's formal IUCN petition [here](#) (press release [here](#)). The IUCN formally accepted NABR's petition (press release [here](#)).

On February 1, 2024, NABR submitted an expanded petition to the IUCN concerning the long-tailed macaque status, which can be found [here](#) (press release [here](#)).

Filed Monday, February 26, NABR's final [response](#) to the authors serves as an excellent two-page summary of NABR's arguments.

For more, [Read](#) the article in the journal Science by Shanghai correspondent Dennis Normile about NABR's IUCN petition. Normile also discussed a recent study in Biological Reviews according to which long-tailed macaques are hyperabundant in formerly wild environments where humans have started settling. He highlighted the inherent contradiction between the IUCN's "endangered" listing of long-tailed macaques on the one hand, and the scientific data presented in the Biological Reviews study and NABR's petition on the other hand.

Also, [Read](#) the NABR press release announcing the new American Journal of Primatology article that disputes information used to determine a faulty conservation status of long-tailed macaques the IUCN issued. You can also read the AJP article directly here (link 'here' to <http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/doi-full-10-1002-ajp-23590/25ngwj/1298447187/h/IICKqiT2zx1Tum9FIGhds0jEsfEVgRw9ceaXT3ope2s>).

FEDERAL

FY24 Appropriations Update

Lawmakers have three days to finalize and pass four FY24 appropriations bills before the deadline occurs and the partial government shutdown takes place on Mar. 1. These four bills include funding for Agriculture-FDA, Military Construction-VA, Transportation-HUD and Energy-Water. As time runs out, leaders in both the House and Senate are eyeing another continuing resolution to give lawmakers more time to iron out policy differences in the bills.

The remaining appropriations bills are set to expire on Mar. 8, 2024. These include funding for the military, the Dept. of Health and Human Services, and other large domestic programs.

Additional information is available [here](#).

NASEM Workshop: Future Topical Updates to the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals”-A Workshop

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine recently announced a workshop planning committee will convene to explore topics and future updates to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide, 8th edition, NRC 2011).

Topics include:

- *Role of regulatory agency policies and their impact on the Guide.*
- *Possible new dissemination formats and content management of the Guide that would have the potential to provide increased usability and accessibility of information to the animal research and welfare communities.*
- *The use of terminology in the Guide.*

- *Topics related to institutional animal care and use committees (IACUCs), such as challenges of using the Guide by IACUCS with perspectives from large and small institutions.*
- *The role and responsibilities of IACUCs in ethical decisions, scientific merit review, harm-benefit analysis, rigor and reproducibility.*
- *Topics related to housing, international housing regulations, and their impacts on animal behavior and welfare.*
- *Relevant guidelines (e.g., AVMA Guidelines for Euthanasia, Taxon-specific Guides, Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL), Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Training (the Ag Guide), and ARRIVE Guidelines), that could be included in the Guide to support recommendations.*
- *Other topics of potential relevance to future Guide updates raised by the planning committee or workshop participants.*

More information on the workshop can be accessed [here](#).

USDA APHIS Notice: USDA Reminds the Public About Animal Welfare Act Regulations for Birds

On Feb. 15, 2024, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) sent a public reminder regarding the final rule establishing new regulations and standards governing the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of birds covered by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). **The final rule applies to captive birds not bred for use in research.**

For new AWA licensees and registrants, this rule will go into effect on February 21, 2024. For current AWA licensees and registrants, this rule went into effect on August 21, 2023. The final rule will help ensure all birds subject to the AWA

are raised and cared for in conditions that ensure their good health and well-being, and that their physical and behavioral needs are met. This final rule may be viewed in the [Federal Register](#).

More information regarding birds covered under the AWA, including frequently asked questions and informational videos, can be found on the USDA APHIS website: [USDA APHIS | AWA Standards for Birds](#)

To learn more about licensing or registration under the AWA or to apply for a license or registration, please visit the USDA APHIS website: [USDA APHIS | Apply for a License or Registration](#)

Registration Open for FDA Course: Achieving Data Quality & Integrity in Maximum Containment Laboratories

For the past 15 years, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in collaboration with the University of Texas Medical Branch has hosted a nonclinical course titled “Achieving Data Quality and Integrity in Maximum Containment Laboratories.” This course has provided valuable information to a variety of biomedical researchers and public health staff nationally and internationally on how to achieve quality data for nonclinical studies in high containment laboratories according to FDA’s Good Laboratory Practice regulations, to include Animal Rule standards. In 2023, a One Health session was added to the curriculum that includes an interactive exercise on how to use the One Health approach for nonclinical studies and the development of medical countermeasures.

The course will have a hybrid (virtual and in-person) format and will be hosted in Galveston, Texas from April 15-19, 2024. In-person attendance provides the opportunity to participate in a mock BSL-4 laboratory exercise with hands-on demonstration of the differences between BSL-2 and BSL-4

environments. Attendance and registration are free of charge. However, travel and per diem is not funded. For questions, contact: orncs@utmb.edu

More information and a link to register can be found [here](#).

ANIMAL RIGHTS NEWS

Founder of the Nonhuman Rights Project Passes Away

Steven Wise, the founder of the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP), recently passed away after decades of advocating for the rights of nonhuman animals. The NhRP was founded in 1995 and according to their website is the *only civil rights organization in the United States dedicated solely to securing rights for nonhuman animals*.

Over the years, the NhRP has “represented” species of nonhuman animals all over the world to provide them with legal personhood standing in a court of law. NABR members will recall the case of “Happy” the elephant.

Due to the dangerous legal precedent that could be set against research institutions working with animal models, NABR filed an amicus brief with the New York Court of Appeals explaining that the court “should hold that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus may not be invoked on behalf of an elephant,” or any animal for that matter.

BACKGROUND: In October 2018 the Nonhuman Rights Project filed a writ of habeas corpus petition against the Bronx Zoo on behalf of “Happy” the elephant in the New York Supreme Court, Orleans County. NhRP sought recognition of the animal’s legal personhood and right to liberty in the hopes of having the elephant released to a sanctuary. After the initial hearing, the case was transferred to the Bronx County Supreme Court, which denied NhRP’s petition.

In 2020, NhRP filed an appeal in the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division, First Department. That appeal was denied. In January 2021 NhRP filed a motion in the New York State Court of Appeals – New York’s highest court – to appeal the lower courts’ decisions. In an unprecedented move, the New York State Court of Appeals granted permission for a hearing. A month after the May 18, 2022 hearing, the New York State Court of Appeals ruled 5-2 against NhRP’s petition to give personhood rights to “Happy” the elephant.

NABR’s amicus brief can be found [here](#).

A full copy of the opinion, with dissents, is available [here](#).

More information can be found [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[NABR Webinar: “One Health and Animal Research: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”](#)

Please join us on Tuesday, April 16th, at 12:30 p.m. EST when Jerrold Tannenbaum returns to our webinar series with a presentation titled: “One Health and Animal Research: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.” “One Health” is today the most influential organizing concept in the medical sciences. From the American Veterinary Medical Association, to the American Medical Association, to the World Health Organization, One Health is proclaimed — and virtually universally accepted — as both the primary goal of, and the underlying methodological approach used in medical and veterinary research, education, and practice.

This webinar will describe the crucial role laboratory animal research played in the development of the concept of One Medicine, the historical precursor of One Health. The discussion will review differing approaches to One Health and will

discuss how biomedical animal research can be an important component of some of these approaches. The webinar will also highlight current approaches to One Health that provide challenges to laboratory animal research. These include the increasing use of privately owned animals, mainly pet cats and dogs, in clinical studies and trials. Of greater concern are approaches to One Health that diminish the importance of human and animal research that benefits human health; would require the diversion of critical resources away from animal research; incorporate concepts of “health” (such as environmental health, ecosystem health, or planetary health) that are unhelpful and may be incoherent; and include societal or geopolitical considerations that have no clear connection to science-driven biomedical research.

The webinar will examine how the biomedical research community can recognize, and counter approaches to One Health that are inimical to or threaten animal research. The discussion will suggest ways the community can support and engage in approaches to One Health that appropriately benefit people, animals, and the environment.

Registration for the webinar is available [here](#).

2024 Spring SCAW IACUC Training Workshop

Registration is open for an interactive in-person workshop featuring a keynote address on the ethics of using animals in research, regulatory and AAALAC International updates, and scenario discussions presented by research professionals.

April 9, 2024 | University of Maryland, Baltimore IACUC Training

Registration is available [here](#).

About SCAW: The [Scientists Center for Animal Welfare \(SCAW\)](#) is dedicated to balancing animal welfare and excellence in basic and applied scientific inquiry. SCAW's workshops further that mission by providing training from experts in animal research, including investigators, laboratory animal veterinarians, and representatives from the USDA, NIH OLAW, and AAALAC International.

Lasker Foundation: Medical Essay Contest

The Lasker Foundation is sponsoring a medical essay contest, promoted by the Journal of Clinical Investigation. This contest is a career-building opportunity for medical students/ biomedical research fellows/ grad students in the health science professions. The contest is sponsored by clients at the prestigious Lasker Foundation – *home to the Lasker Award that has been regarded as America's preeminent biomedical research prize for nearly 80 years.*

Submissions for the Essay Contest are accepted now through early April 2024.

Each year, the Lasker student essay contest attracts several hundred talented, early-career medical students and researchers, brings them under the Lasker umbrella, invites them to hone their communication skills, and provides several winners with up to \$5,000 to offset university expenses, along with a resume-building opportunity. Winning essays will also be published in the July 2024 issue of the Journal of Clinical Investigation and on the Lasker Foundation website.

More information can be found [here](#).

