



March 14, 2024

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.

FEDERAL

President Biden Releases FY 2025 Budget

On Mar. 11, 2024, the White House released President Biden's budget request for FY2025. The budget requests over \$50 billion for the National Institutes of Health's overall mission to support advances in biomedical research.

This includes a funding request for the National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs).

The FY 2025 NIH request includes \$10.0 million for improvements to NHP infrastructure, as part of total support of \$120.0 million for the NPRCs. This request would provide critical funding to improve facilities used to house NHPs, which require continual updates and maintenance. The funds would be distributed by soliciting applications from the existing NHP research centers to improve facilities. Several NHP facilities are over 60 years old, and housing

enclosures require frequent repair and replacement. New construction for research facilities would include improvements to animal holding and animal care rooms, updated equipment – including centrifuges, ultrasound devices, clinical analyzers, veterinary clinical support, and psychological and environmental enrichment, which necessitates highly skilled technical staff and additional resources to provide proper care of the nonhuman primates. This FY 2025 request builds on earlier investments in these research centers to maximize their use for a broad range of NIH research.

The budget overview is available [here](#).

The White House press release can be viewed [here](#).

First Group of FY2024 Appropriations Bills Signed into Law

Last week, Congress passed the first package of appropriations bills to avert a government shutdown. President Biden signed the legislation into law shortly after. This set of appropriations bills fund the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration until Sept. 30, 2024.

Without warning, alarming language impacting animal research at the Dept. of Veterans Affairs was added to the FY24 funding bill. The report language below directs the VA to use alternatives when viable, explain why certain animal tests are required, and eliminate research using dogs, cats, and nonhuman primates by 2026.

P. 36 of [MilCon-VA Explanatory statement](#)

Animal Research- As included in House Report 118-122, the agreement directs the Department to include in any report to Congress describing animal research details on the specific alternatives to animals that were considered, why those alternatives were not chosen, and an explanation for why these animal subjects were the only viable option for this research. The Committees remind the

Department of the requirement to eliminate research conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates by March 2026, and request a briefing on a plan to do so within 90 days of enactment of this Act.

The remaining appropriations bills are set to expire on Mar. 22 and include funding for the Department of Health and Human Services, Defense, and other high priority agencies within the federal government.

More information is available [here](#).

USDA and the DOJ Enter into Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act

On Friday, Mar. 8, 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD), and USDA Office of the General Counsel (OGC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Civil Judicial Enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

The agencies have been closely collaborating on civil judicial enforcement of the AWA for almost four years. This collaboration has resulted in a number of important enforcement actions, including [securing the surrender of close to 150 animals from a Michigan animal dealer](#), some of which are protected under the Endangered Species Act, and [an injunction protecting dogs and cats against pervasive mistreatment at a breeder facility](#).

The MOU represents another significant step forward in AWA enforcement, as it outlines new actions the agencies will take to enhance their collaboration. In general, the MOU establishes a framework for notification, consultation, and coordination among APHIS, USDA's General Counsel and ENRD. Building on the agencies' ongoing relationship, this framework formalizes procedures for regular meetings, coordination on enforcement referrals, information sharing, and additional training for employees, among other activities. These procedures

will better enable the agencies to prepare for and coordinate potential civil enforcement actions.

The Memorandum of Understanding can be seen [here](#).

STATE

Anti-Dissection Bill in CA- The Compassionate Learning Advancements for Science Students (CLASS) Act

On Mar. 12, 2024, Assembly Member Ash Kalra (D-San Jose) introduced AB2640, a bill to support students' ability to opt out of animal dissection in the classroom.

Specifically, the bill would require California teachers to present sourcing and environmental concerns about animal dissection to students, as well as inform them of their right to choose a non-animal replacement.

This legislation is supported by the animal rights groups People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Social Compassion in Legislation (SCIL), and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM). This legislation is nothing new as these groups have been working to end animal dissection in teaching for decades.

More history on these efforts can be found [here](#).

Maryland Bill- Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Licensing and Regulation

The Maryland Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment held a hearing on Friday, Mar. 8, 2024, to discuss [SB761](#), a bill concerning testing facilities that use animals.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Require each testing facility in the State to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture to use animals in research, education, or testing;
- Establish requirements for the use and treatment of dogs or cats by a testing facility;
- Prohibit a testing facility from using certain dogs and cats for research or testing purposes and performing certain procedures on dogs or cats;
- Prohibit a testing facility from using traditional animal test methods under certain circumstances;
- Prohibit a testing facility from conducting a canine or feline toxicological experiment under certain circumstances;
- Apply certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities;
- Establish a State Inspector of Animal Welfare in the Department to inspect certain testing facilities;
- Require a testing facility to notify the State Inspector of certain violations;
- Require a school or an institution of higher education that uses animals for certain purposes to submit a report on the results of certain inspections to the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year;
- Establish the Animals in Research Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund;
- Require interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; and generally relating to testing facilities that use animals in research, education, or testing.

During the hearing, representatives from several animal rights groups spoke in support of the legislation.

NABR and several organizations submitted letters of opposition prior to the committee hearing. The legislation is pending further action at the committee level.

NABR's letter is available [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](#).

NASEM Webinar Series: Setting the Stage for a Year of Communication: Updates from the BAHSCR Roundtable

The Board on Animal Health Sciences, Conservation, and Research (BAHSCR) will kick off its 2024 webinar series on **Mar. 14, 2024, from 12pm-1pm ET**.

The webinar will provide an opportunity for attendees to learn and discuss the changes and activities of the BAHSCR, the Roundtable, the Standing Committee, and the Guide, with the goal of providing an interactive platform to engage the community and receive input and feedback.

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

IACUC Administrators Association (IAA) Webinar

The IACUC Administrators Association announced an upcoming webinar to discuss the role of the IACUC Administrators Association in the IACUC administrative community. This webinar is free of charge and will be held on **Mar. 13, 2024, from 3pm-4:30pm ET**.

Topics include:

- IAA Description and Background
- 2024 IAA Activities Planning
- Program Demographics (2023 Survey Data)
- 2023 in Review
- Some Hard Questions (Panel Experts)

Participants can submit questions to Bill Greer at wggreer@umich.edu prior to the event.

Registration and additional information are available [here](#).

Biosafety Administrators Association (BSAA) Webinar

The Biosafety Administrators Association will be holding a webinar titled “Interactions with OSP, NIH and some Records Keeping Guidance” on March 20, 2024. A guest speaker from the NIH Office of Science Policy (OSP) will present on guidance for records content and retention and will discuss the circumstances IBCs should consider when downgrading containment levels (e.g., BSL2 to BSL1). Attendance is free for BSAA Members and \$75 for Nonmembers.

The webinar will be held on **Mar. 20, 2024, from 3pm-4:30pm ET.**

Participants can submit questions to Bill Greer at wggreer@umich.edu prior to the event.

Registration and additional information can be found [here](#).

OLAW Webinar: Research Using Agricultural Animal Species

The Office of Lab Animal Welfare (OLAW) at the National Institutes of Health

recently announced a webinar that will cover research with farm animals. The webinar will be held on **Mar. 21, 2024, from 1pm-2pm ET.**

Topics include:

- farm animal use in biomedical and agricultural research
- common challenges with these species
- perspectives from the USDA, OLAW, and AAALAC International

Speakers include:

- Debbie Cunningham, DVM - Oklahoma State University
- Louis DiVincenti, DVM, MS, DACLAM, DACAW - USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
- Susan B. Harper, DVM, MS, DACLAM, DACVPM, RBP (ABSA) - NIH (presenting the views of AAALAC International)

Registration is available [here](#).

IACUC 101 Plus Virtual Workshop

The IACUC 101 Series announced its next workshop that will explore IACUC fundamentals appropriate for new and seasoned IACUC members, IACUC affiliates, and individuals responsible for their institution's animal care program.

The workshop will be held on **Apr. 24th and 25th and lasts six hours each day.**

The course provides a basic yet comprehensive overview of the laws, regulations, and policies that govern the humane care and use of research animals. The USDA and OLAW will have representatives present to provide guidance on compliance issues and to provide agency updates. Registration is \$75.00.

Registration ends Apr. 19 at 11pm. Register [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](#).

NABR | 1909 K Street, NW, Suite 300 | Washington, DC 20006 |
Tel 202.857.0540 | Fax 202.659.1902 | info@nabr.org