



April 11, 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

Congresswoman Mace Reintroduces the Preventing Animal Abuse and Waste Act (PAAW)

On April 11, 2024, Congresswoman Nancy Mace (R-SC) and Congressman Jared Moskowitz (D-FL) introduced the PAAW Act, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and prohibit the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from conducting or funding research that causes significant pain or distress to dogs or cats.

Included in the bill are provisions to:

-prohibit research causing significant pain or distress to dogs and cats by directing the NIH to not support any research falling under pain category D or E as classified by the Department of Agriculture

- ensure regular reporting on the use of dogs and cats in NIH-conducted and funded research

-begin a comprehensive study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess NIH's efforts in reducing and replacing the use of dogs and cats in research.

A similar version of this bill was first introduced in 2021 and is supported by the Washington, D.C. based animal rights group, White Coat Waste Project (WCW).

Congresswoman Mace's press release is available [here](#).

Additional information is available [here](#).

Congressman Tom Cole Named House Appropriations Chair

House Republicans recently named Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) to chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. This coveted position is responsible for negotiating funding bills to fund the federal government each fiscal year. Congressman Cole replaces Congresswoman Kay Granger (R-TX) after she stepped down in March from chairing the committee.

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

NIH Updates Grant Process

NIH is implementing multiple changes to forms and submission processes for funding opportunities with due dates on or after January 25, 2025. These administrative changes are meant to simplify, clarify, and ensure greater fairness for applicants throughout the application and peer review processes.

There are no changes to OLAW's guidance for animal care and use programs.

Additional information is available [here](#).

USDA revises the Animal Welfare Inspection Guide

A revised version of the Animal Welfare Inspection Guide (AWIG) was recently posted with a save date of March 8, 2024. NABR's review of the revised version can be found [here](#).

USDA Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) Workshop

On May 8-9, 2024, the USDA's Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) will hold a free "Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act" virtual workshop from 1-4p.m. ET.

The workshop will review:

- *3Rs alternatives (replacement, reduction, and refinement of animal use) methods and resources,*
- *literature searching techniques for finding 3Rs information, and*
- *historical and current insights into the Animal Welfare Act and its regulations.*

Register for the workshop [here](#).

White Coat Waste Project and Congresswoman Malliotakis Discuss Violet's Law

The Hill recently published an op-ed by Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY) and Justin Goodman, the White Coat Waste Project's senior vice president. In the op-ed, the congresswoman and Goodman discuss the need to include Violet's Act in the potential Farm Bill package.

Specifically, the legislation would:

- *require federal research facilities to facilitate the adoption or nonlaboratory placement of dogs, cats, nonhuman primates, guinea*
-

pigs, hamsters, and rabbits with animal rescue organizations, animal sanctuaries, animal shelters, or individuals.

Read the full op-ed [here](#).

Bill text is available [here](#).

STATE

Virginia Governor Signs Animal Testing Bills Into Law

On Apr. 8, 2024, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed SB411/HB580 into law. This law requires the Virginia Dept. of Agriculture to convene a *Task Force on Transparency in Publicly Funded Animal Testing Facilities*.

The taskforce will consist of legislators and stakeholders with the purpose of identifying potential deficiencies in publicly funded animal testing facilities in the Commonwealth and recommending methods and context for making certain information about such animal testing facilities publicly available. The bill requires the Task Force to report its findings to certain committees of the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2024.

The previous version of this bill, now law, aimed to require publicly funded institutions to report certain information regarding the use of animals in research on its website. Many Virginia institutions testified against the bill, and legislators then agreed to create a task force to study the proposed reporting requirements instead. NABR thanks the institutions who worked to amend this legislation to current law.

More information 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](#).

Society for Neuroscience Highlights Importance of Non-Human Primate Models in Neuroscience Research

The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) recently released a publication titled, “The Irreplaceable Nature of Non-Human Primate Models in Neuroscience Research.” In the article, SfN explains the important role NHPs play in advancing scientific understanding of the brain.

SfN shares similar concerns as many stakeholders in the biomedical research community that *ongoing and recent efforts to close laboratories, delegitimize, and further restrict work involving NHPs and other animal models.*

Without critical research involving animal models and NHPs, there would be limitations in understanding the brain and stalled progress in developing treatments for human brain disorders. The ethical use of animal models for critical research is essential to advancing our knowledge of basic neuroscience processes and working toward curing disease.

Please take the time to read this important [publication](#) and share it with colleagues.

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 April 19 at 11p.m. Register [here](#).

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

The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide), now in its 8th edition, has served as a reference document on animal care and use for several decades. The current edition was published in 2011 and for the Guide to remain a relevant reference document, it needs to stay current on animal care and use issues.

This workshop will serve as a platform to share information and gather knowledge on topics related to the Guide to inform future updates and/or revisions to the Guide, including discussions exploring topics related to regulations, terminology, housing, dissemination formats, and other relevant topics.

[Registration](#) is now open for the workshop which will take place April 23 – 24, 2024.

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