



June 20, 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

Protect Biomedical Research: Urge Members of Congress to Oppose Ending Animal Research at the Department of Veterans Affairs

On June 5, 2024, the House of Representatives approved the first FY25 appropriations bill on Military-Construction, Veterans Affairs, and related agencies.

In this bill, animal activist leaning lawmakers included language to end animal research with dogs, cats, and nonhuman primates at the Department of Veterans Affairs by 2026. Many research projects that include these animals are still years away from completion.

This legislative text also includes provisions on reporting requirements and red tape that can hinder the ability to conduct this life-saving research even before 2026.

Please use the link below to send a letter to your senators and representative urging the removal of this language from the FY25 bill. Decisions on animal research should be left to scientists and experts, not politically appointed lawmakers on Capitol Hill!

Thank you for your time and effort in this call to action!

ACT NOW

House Passes Defense Bill with Amendment Targeting Dog and Cat Research at the Department of Defense (DoD)

On June 14, 2024, the House of Representatives passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act, a series of United States federal laws specifying the annual budget and expenditures of the U.S. Department of Defense.

The bill passed by a slim margin of 217 to 199 and consisted of over 350 amendments that were debated on the House floor. One of the amendments that was passed en bloc would ban the Department of Defense (DoD) from using any funds to conduct biomedical research with dogs and cats. This amendment, backed by lawmakers with close ties to White Coat Waste Project, is another attempt to thwart life-saving research at top U.S. government agencies.

The Senate will soon release its version of NDAA, as the House bill is considered to be a nonstarter in the upper chamber.

Read the amendment [here](#).

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

FDA Works to Stop Misinformation About Animal Welfare, Testing & Research

The FDA added a new section on its website called Rumor Control to stop and correct the spread of misinformation and disinformation about science, medicine, and the FDA.

Rumors about animals in research were debunked this May in the featured article Facts about FDA and Animal Welfare, Testing & Research. The article educates with positive and factual information about the 3Rs, alternatives to animal testing, and the federal laws regulating animal research. It also discusses FDA's work with industry partners to advance the development and adoption of alternatives to animal testing.

The webpage can be seen [here](#).

OLAW Webinar on Research Using Agricultural Species

NABR has received questions concerning statements made during the March 21, 2024, OLAW webinar on Research Using Agricultural Species regarding the USDA oversight process. The following statement has been added to page 4 of the transcript, which can be found on the OLAW Webinar landing [page](#).

POST-WEBINAR CLARIFICATION FROM USDA:

As of 5/16/24, USDA is clarifying its position on regulation of horses and other farm animals as presented in this webinar. Although USDA has statutory authority to regulate horses used for research and other farm animals used for biomedical and non-agricultural research, we are not changing our current inspection procedures and regulatory oversight of horses and other farm animals at this time. USDA's regulation of horses and other farm animals remains limited to farm animals being used as

models for diseases of humans. Should any changes occur in the future, adequate notice will be provided to the regulated community.

STATE

New York Assembly Introduces Bill to Ban Horseshoe Crabs in Biomedical Research

In May, a bill was introduced in the New York General Assembly to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the taking of horseshoe crabs for commercial and biomedical purposes. The justification for the legislation is below.

Justification: Horseshoe crabs have existed largely unchanged on Earth for over 400

million years. They are an integral part of the marine ecosystem; their eggs are consumed by other animal species, and they supply the energy migratory shorebirds require, particularly the threatened Red Knot. The horseshoe crab's unique ecological role is imperiled by their declining population due to overharvesting for use as bait and for use of their blood by the biomedical industry. In order for the population to grow,

New York must join neighboring coastal states in prohibiting the taking of this ancient species.

Bill text is available [here](#).

This bill is a small part in a joint effort by animal and environmental rights groups to target the use of horseshoe crabs in biomedical research. Recently, these groups targeted the Maryland wildlife managers, accusing them of keeping data hidden on the horseshoe crab.

A local news segment on the matter can be viewed [here](#).

ANIMAL RIGHTS NEWS

Animal Activists Vandalize Portrait of King Charles III

Animal Rising, an international animal rights group, vandalized an official portrait of King Charles III in a London art gallery. Protesters were seen putting posters over the face of King Charles in an effort to protest animal welfare standards at a farm run by [Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#), the U.K.'s largest animal welfare charity.

The action was designed to bring attention to a new report, released on Sunday by Animal Rising, which investigated 45 farms whose welfare standards are guaranteed by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), CNN reported.

The official painting was unharmed, and no arrests were made.

Additional information is available [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NABR Webinar: Q&A With the USDA - The 12th Edition

NABR is once again pleased to announce the return of one of its most requested webinars, "[Q&A with the USDA](#)." Join USDA-APHIS Animal Care's Drs. Elizabeth Theodorson, assistant deputy administrator for Animal Welfare Operations, and Dr. Louis DiVincenti, senior veterinary medical officer – research, for "[Q&A with the USDA: The Twelfth Edition](#)" on Tuesday, July 16 at 12:30 p.m. EDST. As in the past this [webinar](#) will provide NABR members with

a unique opportunity to ask questions directly of the leadership of Animal Care's Animal Welfare Operations. A lot has changed in the last year. The final rule on Standards for Birds Not Bred for Use in Research Under the Animal Welfare Act was implemented, the Animal Welfare Inspection Guide was revised, and the USDA and Justice Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act. You should take advantage of this unique opportunity provided to NABR members to better understand what impact these and other ongoing changes may have on your institution concerning compliance with the Animal Welfare Regulations. Questions should be submitted in advance to info@nabr.org. They will be reviewed and formatted to prevent duplication and will be answered in the order they are received, so please submit them as soon as possible. As in the past we will schedule the session for an hour but will continue the webinar until all questions have been addressed.

Registration is available [here](#).

Dr. Debra Hickman Wins 2024 AVMA Animal Welfare Award

On June 5, 2024, the American Veterinary Medical Association recognized Dr. Debra Hickman as the winner of the 2024 AVMA Animal Welfare Award.

In recognition of her commitment to advancing animal welfare through decades of teaching, research, and leadership within the profession, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has honored Debra Hickman, DVM, DACLAM, DACAW, as the winner of the 2024 AVMA Animal Welfare Award.

The AVMA Animal Welfare Award is presented annually to an AVMA member veterinarian in recognition of their achievement in advancing the welfare of animals via leadership, public service, education, research/product

development, and/or advocacy. It is one of three Animal Welfare and Human-Animal Bond Excellence Awards presented annually by the AVMA and supported through educational funding from Merck Animal Health.

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

Register Now for the Winter 2024 SCAW Annual Winter Conference

Registration is open for the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) winter conference. SCAW two-day conferences provide key findings and advances in research animal welfare, explore policy and management issues related to IACUCs and develop awareness of humane care and use of agricultural animals in research. Topics to be discussed include:

- New Approach Methodologies (NAMs): Beyond the Buzz – Applications and Impact
- Can Virtual Technology Lessen the IACUC Burden
- Legal Tips for Internal Compliance and External Reporting to Federal Agencies: What to Do and What Not to Do
- Are You Up to Date with OLAW, APHIS and AAALAC International: Q & A for You and Me
- Extrinsic Factors: Can We Talk About the People Problem
- Lights, Vibration, and More: How Extrinsic Factor Affect the Animals in the Research Facility
- The Intersection of Non-Compliance and Research Misconduct: Going From Bad to Worse
- Sound Public Policy

December 9-10, 2024 | San Antonio, TX | In-Person

Early registration ends Oct. 15, 2024. The hotel deadline is Nov. 15, 2024.

Registration is available [here](#).

PRIM&R Webinar: “The Documents Side of an Animal Care and Use Program”

The intricacies of a complex Animal Care and Use Program are interwoven with a collection of policies, guidelines, and standard operating procedures (SOPs), forming the backbone of its operational framework. Together, these elements create a cohesive structure that governs the program's activities, enhances accountability, and fosters organizational alignment, thereby facilitating the successful execution of the program. Participants will discuss the primary differences between and distinct purposes of policies, guidelines, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) within an Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP).

The webinar will take place on Thursday, June 27, 2024, from 1 p.m.-2:15 p.m. EST.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

Submission Open: 41st Annual Symposium on Nonhuman Primate Models for AIDS

Submission is open for abstracts and travel award applications for Tulane National Primate Research Centers' 41st Annual Symposium on Nonhuman Primate Models for AIDS. This event will take place at Westin New Orleans from Oct. 22-25, 2024.

To submit, visit <http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/2024-06-20/27qhng/1447481110/h/fCdEfC3ISxqx6kChnD15NxIA1s4PP23xyhU8qpQRsEw>. The deadline for submission is **July 1, 2024**.

This annual symposium is the leading forum for exchanging the latest developments in HIV/AIDS research in nonhuman primates and attracts the world's foremost infectious disease researchers. Scientists, veterinarians, faculty, graduate students, and investigators of all levels attend this meeting to

share their findings and advancements in intervention, treatment, prevention and/or cures for HIV and its coinfections.

A limited number of travel awards to attend the symposium are available to graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and early-stage investigators.

Session Topics

1. Co-Morbidity and Aging Across the Health Span

2. Eradication and Cures

3. Vaccines and Prevention

4. Coinfections, COVID, and Emerging Infections

5. Special Topics

More information is available [here](#).

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