



International Animal Action

SPRING 2003

International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals

FIRST EVER RUSSIAN ALTERNATIVES WEB SITE LAUNCHED

by Brian Gunn Secretary General

The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals has helped to launch the first ever Russian web site on Alternatives.

The launching of this new Russian web site, which is the world's largest website on Alternatives in Education, will save the lives and suffering of countless laboratory animals throughout Eastern Europe.

The IAAPEA awarded a grant to InterNICHE which enabled the world's largest Alternatives web site to be translated into Russian and launched on the Internet.

Available at www.interniche.org, this resource provides a wide range of material for all parties involved in animal use and Alternatives.



IAAPEA Sponsoring Humane Research in Eastern Europe.
Photograph by Brian Gunn / IAAPEA ©



The site provides news updates and background information on the issues. It details the resources that InterNICHE offers, provides links to other organisations and their resources, and lists the latest contents of the Alternatives Loan System.

The opportunity to trial Alternatives is an important factor in the familiarisation and assessment of alternatives by teachers and students. The existing Alternatives Loan System includes over 100 different products from a range of quality CD-ROM's, videos, manikins and simulators. Covering major areas such as anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and clinical skills, the alternatives held within the Loan System were chosen for their pedagogical quality and potential for replacement.

Currently, the most comprehensive library on Alternatives in Education, the Loan System offers Alternatives for free loan to most areas of the world. For those working to replace animals, the Loan System provides encouragement and motivation as well as practical help.

On the web site there is also advice and support for conscientious objectors, including testimonies from students around the world, and several image galleries.

InterNICHE, under the professional leadership of its Co-Ordinator, Nick Jukes, is an open and diverse network comprising of students, teachers and animal campaigners in over 30 countries. The network focuses on animal use and alternatives within biological science, medical and veterinary medical education.

Scientists and students in Eastern Europe will now find it easier to locate and use alternatives to replace live animals in research, training and education due to the launch of the IAAPEA-sponsored Russian Alternative web site.



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MICE MEAN MONEY FOR MRC



Mice mean money for the government-funded Medical Research Council which is to announce the establishment of a spin-out company based on mouse genetics.

Etiologics - the name taken from 'Aetiology', the study of causation - has been set up to commercialise research at the MRC Mammalian Genetics Unit at Harwell near Oxford.

It will be established with an initial venture capital funding of £3.5m from MVM and ABN Amro. The unit uses mice to analyse the underlying genetic causes of disease.

Steven Brown, who is Director of the Unit and a founder of Etiologics, says "Harwell has produced 500 of the world's 3,000-4,000 established 'mouse models' of disease". A mouse model is a strain of an animal that suffers from a particular human disease, such as diabetes, heart disease or osteoporosis.

Etiologics will use the technology to generate new mouse strains for pharmaceutical companies to use in drug development.

'We are in the business of providing information about genes that could be interesting drug targets', says Professor Brown. 'We do not want Etiologics to become a drug discovery company itself.'

The company produces small genetic mutations at random in the sperm of male mice. They are fed with a chemical called ENU and their offspring are screened for characteristics which might make them useful models. It then identifies the genes which were altered in the process.

This process of random mutagenesis is also followed by Ingenium, a German Company for mouse genetics. It contrasts with the 'knock-out' process adopted by Lexicon Genetics and Deltagen of the U.S., where a particular mouse gene is targeted and disabled.

About one random mutation in 50 turns out to be useful explains Professor Brown, and each strain requires several hundred mice to study its genetics. So Harwell houses many thousands of mice.



The government-funded MRC spends about £400m a year on biomedical research. Etiologics is its 16th spin-off company.

SAVED!

Tortured monkeys rescued in India.

The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals is helping rehabilitate primates rescued from laboratories in India.



Scientists have now consolidated their control on the animal experiment panel- the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). After dropping animal welfare activist and former minister Maneka Gandhi from the panel, it has been recast into a body of Officials and Scientists.

Gandhi's tenure, saw a series of inspections which found well-known Science Institutes, wanting in their treatment of animals.

The National Institute of Immunology, Maulana Azad Medical College, Indian Institute of Science and AIIMS were affected by this. Former Health Minister C.P. Thakur took up the cause maintaining that such inspections were hindering research.

This move by the science establishment is the culmination of the war between Thakur and Gandhi. The dispute forced the Prime Minister to intervene and both lost their Cabinet berths.

The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals protested to the Indian Government regarding these expulsions which we see as a victory for the science establishment.



WHERE THERE'S A WILL ...THERE'S A WAY!

At certain times in your life it is important to review your Will.

These include the death of a partner, marriage (or remarriage), divorce, and the arrival of grandchildren.

When you've made sure the ones you love are looked after in your Will, please spare a thought for laboratory animals.



The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals has already saved the lives of countless laboratory animals.

We also fund medical research without animal experiments into cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.



With your support we can save many more animals from suffering painful experiments in the future.

***We are the voice for the voiceless.
Please help us to save the animals.***

A Will not only makes sense, it makes perfect peace of mind.



TEETH GROWN IN ANIMALS

Scientists have grown teeth in a laboratory.

The living teeth were grown using pig cells in the intestines of rats and are said to be 'strikingly accurate' copies of real teeth.

A team from Boston's Forsyth Institute now hopes to reproduce the teeth using human cells, raising the possibility that they could be grown on demand to replace dentures, bridges and crowns.

Their experiment involved taking cells from the jaw bones of 6-month-old pigs, treating them with enzymes and implanting them in rats whose immune systems had been weakened so that they would not reject the tissue.

The scientists suspected that rat cells could organise themselves into complex structures and they found teeth growing in their intestines after nine months.

Dominick De Paola, President of the Forsyth Institute, said the breakthrough 'has the potential to revolutionise dentistry'.

Researchers say they hope to refine their techniques so that within five years it will be possible to regenerate human teeth to an exact size and shape. They believe the first implants could be carried out within a decade.

RAT GETS A FACE TRANSPLANT

American researchers have given a rat a face transplant.

The experiment involved a 6-month-old white rat and a similar black rat. Plastic surgeons removed the ears, scalp and upper face of the black rat and by using delicate surgery transferred them onto the white rat.

Dr Maria Siemionow, the plastic surgeon leading the research at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio, said "the rat experiment proves that face transplants are no longer the stuff of science fiction".

Dr Siemionow explained: 'We had the rats on very low doses of immuno-suppressing drugs because we were worried about the toxic side effects on them.'

She said the structure of a rat face is similar to that of a human face. The blood supply comes from branches of one major artery, the carotid, and drains away through one major vein, the jugular.

However, she added: 'Rats are small creatures and the surgery involved is very intricate. We had to use specially miniaturised instruments and we had to work our way up through a learning curve. In these initial experiments, we left the skin around the nose and mouth of the recipient so that if anything went wrong, they would still be able to feed normally.

'But the darker-coloured parts of the recipient are all transplanted - the ears, scalp, and forehead.'



THE SEALS OF WAR

America's secret weapon against Iraq is a team of highly-trained sea lions. Along with massive amounts of arms and tens of thousands of troops, they have been sent to the Gulf by the Pentagon and will be on the front line.

Able to see with remarkable clarity even in dark water, the sea lions also have superb hearing and can easily dive to 600 feet or more, dozens of times a day.

They can find and remove mines, but their main job will be to find saboteurs - Iraqi divers - sent to plant explosive mines on U.S. or allied ships.

When they do, they are trained to report back to their handler and signal with excited squeaks.

A small pack is then strapped to the sea lion's back which has a rigid probe that runs out and extends in front of the animal's head. The mammal - is then sent back into action.

It will quickly find the swimmer again and jab him with the probe. In one type of device, this triggers a 'gun' which sprays the diver with a paint-like substance that sends out a directional signal, allowing anti-sabotage teams to locate and capture him.

In another, a float is released with a bright strobe light that marks the swimmer's location.

There have been reports that some sea lions are equipped with real guns or harpoons to kill enemy divers.

The sea lions have been kept as secret as possible to avoid controversy and criticism.

While confirming that they had been flown out to the Gulf, the U.S. Navy refuses to give any details.

But other sources said that six were operating from Bahrain and would be working with the 5th Fleet.

The U.S. Navy has been training sea lions and dolphins for at least 30 years and used them extensively in the Vietnam War.

They have since seen duty in the first Gulf War, off the coast of Somalia and they are used to protect U.S. naval bases around the world.

The navy currently has about 100 trained dolphins and 30 other marine mammals, each costing about £10,000 a year.



Ready for action a highly trained Sea Lion



ZOMBIE FARM ANIMALS

The creation of zombie farm animals by genetic scientists must be strictly controlled, demanded Government Scientists.

Already work is underway in the U.S. on pigs which will not bite or gore others in their herds.

Aggression-free chickens and quails are also being developed and other animals could follow, in a drive to reduce the stress they would normally feel in factory farming conditions.

Experts from the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission (AEBEC) predicted that meat from the first genetically-modified farm animals would be eaten in Britain within a decade. But they warned that there were grave concerns over the ethics of creating GM or cloned farm animals and of their potentially damaging effects on the environment.

Tough controls on the industry must be imposed, they said.

Most Britians would find the use of genetic technology to create animals that are more amenable to intensive farming 'objectionable', said the AEBEC's experts.

A ban on the commercial development of GM 'super salmon', which grows several times faster than any normal fish, must stay in place, they went on.

The committee states in its report: 'We believe that the law as it stands would not necessarily protect animals from some potentially fundamentally objectionable changes to their natures. A new strategic advisory body should be set up by statute to examine issues raised by the use of genetic biotechnology on farm animals.'



The panel, chaired by Professor Malcolm Grant of Cambridge University, raised concerns about cloned pets. Scientists have already announced the birth of 'Cc', the world's first cloned cat.

In a press release, Brian Gunn, IAAPEA Secretary-General said: 'This immoral research for commercial gain has grotesquely got out of hand. The law on the subject is over 90 years' old and needs to be urgently updated. The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals will continue to campaign vigorously and lobby against research involving genetically modified and cloned animals.'

ECSTASY ANIMAL TESTS

Ecstasy - the favourite recreational drug of clubbers has been tested on animals in the U.K, America and Italy.

The latest experiments were performed at the John Hopkins University in Baltimore.

The research was led by Dr George Ricuarte and involved using squirrel monkeys and baboons. It sought to mimic more closely the use of Ecstasy by humans by giving three consecutive doses of the drug, at three-hour intervals therefore mimicking the effects of clubbers 'topping up' their high, during an evening - as if the animals were at an all-night party!

The researchers found that the monkeys developed a severe, long-lasting loss of up to 90% in brain dopamine, the neurotransmitter that declines with advancing age.

Two of the 10 monkeys in the experiment died quickly, one from heat stroke and two others became so sick they could not take the third dose.



DOLLY **1996 - 2003 R.I.P.**

Dolly the sheep is dead. The world's first cloned animal was put to sleep at Scotland's Roslin Institute.

Premature ageing and disease marred Dolly's short existence and raised question about the practicality of copying life.

The decision to end Dolly's life at age six - about half the life expectancy of her breed - was made because a Veterinarian confirmed lung disease.

The premature death of Dolly, supports the views of Scientists in Japan and America who maintain that all cloned animals are born with health problems.

Experts became worried last year when Dolly developed arthritis in her hind leg and hip. Although arthritis in sheep is quite common, it is very unusual for it to be in these joints.

Some geneticists said it was evidence that researchers could not manufacture copies of animals without the original genetic blueprint wearing out.

Dolly is to be stuffed and put on public display in Scotland.

In a press statement, Brian Gunn, IAAPEA Secretary-General said: 'The early death of Dolly was a warning that cloning was dangerous, impractical and immoral. It took 276 unsuccessful attempts before Dolly was produced. Many cloned animals which are carried to term die shortly after birth. Of the survivors, many have health problems such as heart, lung and weight abnormalities with oversized organs and weakened immune systems.'



RUSSIAN GERM WARFARE RESEARCH

Details are emerging of germ warfare research that has been performed on live animals on the island of Vozrozhdeniye in Russia.

Relics of life in what was the island's only town, Kantubek, lie in the dust. They tell parallel stories of a comfortable year-round home for some 1,500 people and a practice field for the most hideous kind of warfare.

In a garage, standing side by side are 30 trucks, two T-52 tanks and two armoured personnel-carriers - tests were carried out on their resistance to germ warfare.



Near the entrance of the laboratory complex, two miles from Kantubek, stand a pair of two-storey buildings where animals were kept and monitored for good health before their exposure to bioweapons. Piled up in corners are hundreds of cages designed to hold guinea pigs, hamsters and rabbits. Horses and donkeys were kept in separate stables.

Gennadi Lepyoshkin lives in his small apartment in Stepnogorsk, 800 miles away in northern Kazakhstan. Lepyoshkin aged 55, a heavy-set physician, microbiologist and retired colonel from the Soviet Army, once ran a huge bioweapons production plant in Stepnogorsk. He spent 18 summers supervising teams of researchers on Vozrozhdeniye Island. Testing was performed only in the summer when 120-degree temperatures made the spread of pathogens less likely.

Lepyoshkin lived and worked at the laboratory complex. 'About one-third of our work was on weapons, like anthrax, plague and other bacteria,' he recalls, 'and two-thirds on matters like testing vaccines or clothing or how long micro-organisms would survive in the soil.'

Lepyoshkin was shown photographs of the lab complex. He flipped through them gloomily and stopped at a shot of a long three-story building.

'That's where I worked,' he says. 'That's the hot zone, where we kept the pathogens, where the animals were brought after the tests and where they died and were autopsied. It was cleared out so that no one could even guess what went on there.'

Does he ever have any qualms about being part of a program that was making enough germs to kill the earth's population several times over?

'No,' he says and shakes his head vigorously. 'Absolutely not. Because I knew the weapons would never be used. When nuclear weapons were made, no one thought they would be used. You'd have to be mad to use them.'

He pauses and adds: 'But now that there's terrorism, it's more scary. You know biological weapons are cheap. We calculated that to achieve an effect on one square kilometre' - and by 'effect' he means killing about half of the population - 'it costs \$2,000 with conventional weapons, \$800 with a nuclear weapon, \$600 with a chemical weapon and \$1 with a bio-weapon'. One dollar.

'But we never discussed these things among us,' he continues. 'We were doing interesting work, and we were proud of it.'

Ten miles from the lab, on a plateau, is the testing range itself. 'We used monkeys, about 200 to 300 each year,' Lepyoshkin later recounts. 'Our staff would take them out to the range' - 15 miles from town - 'and they would put them in cages next to devices that measured the concentration of germs in the air. Then after they were exposed, they were taken to the labs, where we would test their blood and monitor the development of a disease in them. They would die within weeks, and we would perform autopsies.'

Further on, four poles have been set horizontally on pickets two feet from the ground. Rusty chains hang down, even a few feed troughs. This is where the horses and donkeys were tied up. You can imagine them standing patiently in a row at dusk, when the wind would ease and deadly aerosols would be released.



MOUNTIES FIRE AT PIGS IN RIOT CONTROL EXPERIMENT

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have tested weapons designed to control protesters, by test-firing at pigs.

Newly obtained documents show the Mounties carried out laboratory experiments on the animals to evaluate special 'less-lethal' ammunition, intended to inflict pain or temporarily disable people without killing them.

The test results were submitted to the RCMP's Public Order Unit, which was set up two years ago to study and devise new means of policing large demonstrations.

The study and related memos, released under the Access to Information Act, shed light on the Unit's research programme and the lengths to which the police force has gone, to prepare for massive public rallies.

The experiment, performed at the RCMP's forensic laboratory in Regina, involved two freshly killed pigs and a single live one. Pigs were used because their tissue somewhat resembles that of humans.

An RCMP spokesman, Corporal Desjardins, said: 'We have conducted extensive research and testing to find crowd-control methods that are effective and ensure the greatest degree of safety possible for both the public and the police. And I would say that is probably why tests were made on animals.'

The two pigs killed for the tests were shot through the head with conventional bullets, the most humane way to take their lives, Corporal Desjardins explained.

For the experiments, conducted by two RCMP experts and a Florida trauma specialist, the 90-kilogram pig carcasses were chained to the front-loader of a tractor and raised about 1.5 metres off the ground. Several aim spots were then drawn on the pigs.

Shotguns were used to fire the 12-gauge ammunition, known as sock rounds, at the various aim spots. The projectiles, essentially small socks filled with lead shot, were fired at different velocities. The higher the velocity, the more likely they were to penetrate the carcasses.

The live pig which was fired on twice, merely shook his leg after being shot in the thigh, as if to remove a fly, and 'didn't even squeal', the study says.

The IAAPEA have protested to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police regarding these obscene shooting experiments.

DOCS SWAP MICE WOMB

Doctors have carried out the first womb transplants on mice - bringing human operations a step closer.

It is the first time an animal has been given a new womb and then become pregnant.

Dr Mats Brannstrom, who led a research team at Gothenburg University, Sweden, said: 'We aim to achieve transplantations in humans.'

A woman who had undergone a hysterectomy could be given her sister's womb - after she had borne her own children.

Or, she could be given her mother's womb, meaning she would give birth from the same womb that she had developed in.





ANIMAL BIRTHS

It's the closest a rat has come to giving birth to a litter of mice.

The rat grew mouse eggs from which five pups were born to a mouse surrogate mother. This Australian study is the first instance of live young being born from eggs grown in another species.

Ms. Cox of Monash University in Clayton, Victoria, and her colleagues grafted sections of mouse ovaries onto rat's kidneys. The rats had their immune systems suppressed so they would not reject the tissue. The scientists collected eggs from the ovaries, fertilised them and then implanted the resulting embryos into a surrogate mouse.

Five healthy pups were born from 31 different transplants. All five mice were fertile and went on to produce their own healthy pups.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF CLONED SHEEP

Matilda, Australia's first cloned sheep has suddenly died at just three years old, from no apparent cause.

'A post-mortem examination on Matilda failed to find the cause of death,' said Rob Lewis, who heads the South Australian Research Institute near Adelaide. The cremation of her carcass means that there will be no further opportunity to see whether she had suffered any problems connected to her being cloned.



ITALY ADOPTS HUMANE RESEARCH

The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals has held conferences and campaigns for laboratory animals in Italy for many years. We are delighted that students in Italy can now conscientiously object to using animals for dissection and vivisection, since the adoption of new humane legislation. So far 64 percent of the Italian Universities have accepted a new animal-friendly initiative entitled, Education Without Animals.

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REPLACEMENTS IN ITALY

Thanks to a particularly favourable juridical situation, it has been possible within the last year to abolish experiments on animals performed for didactic purposes in 71% of Universities. As a result, 91 Italian Scientific Faculties (Faculties of Medicine and Surgery, Faculties of Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Faculties of Pharmacy and Faculties of Veterinary Medicine) have already decided to no longer use animals for any demonstrative teaching purposes.





Photograph by Brian Gunn / IAAPEA ©

CRUELTY KNOWS NO FRONTIERS

The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals is the only International Organisation campaigning solely for laboratory animals.

We believe that the use of animals during the course of medical, scientific, commercial, industrial or for any other laboratory purpose is unacceptable from an ethical and moral standpoint and increasingly suspect as a valid method of investigation.

There is now substantial evidence that animal research is an unreliable means of studying, treating and curing human illness and - as history has shown - can prove dangerously misleading as well.

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The IAAPEA has Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The Association depends entirely on voluntary donations and desperately needs your help to combat laboratory cruelty and to promote a more reliable approach to medical research.



The Editor and Executive Committee do not necessarily agree with all views expressed by contributors.



WHO CARES ...



ABOUT ... DOGS IN RUSSIA ...

RABBITS IN MEXICO ...

CATS IN JAPAN ...



WE DO !

On behalf of every little face behind every set of bars in every laboratory cage, the International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals cares passionately about animals all over the world who are used for painful laboratory experiments.

Your legacy could help us end this cruel abuse on animals.

It is of the utmost importance that those intending to benefit the Association should state in their Will the Association's full name and address. Failure to use the correct title may lead to costly litigation and the loss of the whole or part of the legacy.

We earnestly ask all testators to use the following form of bequest.

I give free of tax to the -

***International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals,
PO Box 14, Hayling Island, Hampshire, PO11 9BF England***

and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being thereof shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors.



WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN SAVE THE ANIMALS

ONLY YOU CAN PROVIDE THE VITAL FUNDS

THANK YOU FOR CARING !