

U.S. Primate Experimentation – University of California, Davis

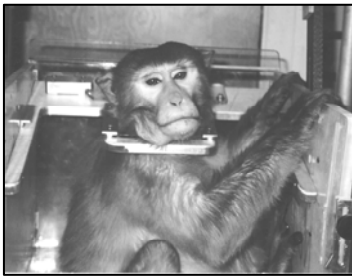
The Facts About Primate Experimentation

Primate experimentation in the U.S. is out of control. Roughly 120,000 primates are imprisoned in US labs, an increase of 24% in the last ten years.

Funding for primate experimentation has also increased eclipsing the \$1.6 billion mark. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is responsible for most of this waste with 93% of NIH-funded primate projects not relevant to the diseases (heart disease, cancer, etc.) that are killing humans. Other government agencies funding this atrocity include the National Science Foundation, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Defense.



Widespread Suffering



The species most often experimented on are: rhesus monkeys, baboons, squirrel monkeys, and chimpanzees. Laboratory isolation is severely stressful to primates. In fact, 10% of isolated primates are so severely

stressed that they become self-destructive. Primates are naturally social animals who traverse large areas of terrain in their native habitat. Indoor laboratory environments are by their very nature stressful to primates. Their space is severely limited, such that a 33 – 55 pound primate lives in a space of 8 square feet, 2' by 4'. This is like a 165 pound human spending their entire life in a space that is 3' by 8', or 24 square feet.

Government Waste

Most primates are not used in experiments that study the diseases that kill most Americans. Projects studying psychology, alcohol & addictive drugs & brain mapping far outnumber studies involving heart disease or cancer.

Repetition is rampant among NIH-funded projects. Currently, 175 NIH projects study neural information processing in macaque monkeys. These useless experiments waste over \$70 million in federal tax dollars every year. Many of these projects continue for decades wasting millions of tax dollars and victimizing primates for an entire lifetime.

U.C. Davis Experiments

Many primates at UC Davis are used in brain-mapping experiments. These projects attach recording cylinders to the skulls of these innocent animals. Eye coils are implanted. Electrodes are forced into the brain. Primates are also confined to restraint chairs and deprived of water for extended periods of time.

Craniotomies are often performed on primates at UC Davis. These procedures cut holes into the animals' skull for the insertion of electrodes into the brain. Other



procedures cut openings into the membranes that protect the brain for electrode insertion. Restraint bars are attached to the skulls of these animals, so their heads can literally be bolted into place during experimental procedures.

University of California, Davis – Statistics

4500 primates imprisoned.

36% of deaths tied to gastro-intestinal tract disease.

34% of the dead primates were emaciated & 24% were dehydrated.

7 primates killed in heating malfunction in 2004.

Davis Primate Center connected to \$93 million per year in federally funded experimentation.

Other illnesses existing in UC Davis primates include hepatitis, encephalitis, meningitis, gastric bloat, and a lung fungus. Overall (63%) of the adult primates at UC Davis had some pathological condition.

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Scientists Criticize Primate Experiments:

Often, monkeys are deprived of food and water and then rewarded with these basic necessities. In addition to the fact that these and other similar experiments cause enormous stress and pain for the monkeys, they have little or no clinical usefulness.

Aysha Akhtar, M.D., M.P.H.

Statement of Cheri Stevens, Former UC Davis Primate Caretaker



“The CNPRC would like to paint the public a picture of their establishment as a place of business that maintains a constant state of order, a place that makes decisions

that are nothing but humane to the animals housed on site. I witnessed a much different place. The CNPRC is in the business of making a profit at the expense and well-being of the primates housed there. I witnessed several animals suffer from behavioral and health issues there were a direct result of the care they were not receiving from staff at the CNPRC. I witnessed many decisions being made based on what would benefit the employees rather than the primates housed at CNPRC. I witnessed many unfair and unjust practices being used on a daily basis. I witnessed staff mishandling and abusing animals as if it was a necessary part of the employee’s day. The CNPRC is understaffed and the primates are not receiving adequate care. Many primates die every year due to malnourishment. They are literally starving to death. It is common practice for the CNPRC to sweep the dirt under the rug.”



What you can do to help:

1. **Read, copy, and distribute this fact sheet.**
2. **Write to your federal legislators to request a General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded primate experimentation.**

The Honorable _____ 202-234-3121

U.S. House of Representatives
www.house.gov
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator _____ 202-234-3121
U.S. Senate
www.senate.gov
Washington, D.C. 20510

3. **Send as large a tax-deductible donation as you can afford to Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! (SAEN) to support this campaign.**



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