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To Whom It May Concern:

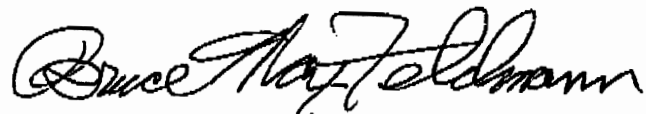
I am a veterinarian with 46 years experience including 10 years in laboratory animal medicine at the University of California, Berkeley and 10 years of experience dealing with non-human primates.

I have been asked to comment on several procedures which use primates in experimentation, specifically confinement of primates to restraint chairs, use of water and or food deprivation as a means of coercing primates into participating in experimental procedures, and the attachment of devices to the skulls of non-human primates.

Depriving sentient animals of food or water for extended periods of time is highly stressful. The use of this deprivation to "train" primates to "work" in an experimental procedure causes distress - otherwise, it would be ineffective as a training tool. Experimental procedures that utilize food or water deprivation, for periods as long as 22 consecutive hours, cause distress to primates and are unethical.

The use of restraint chairs in research projects involving non-human primates causes them distress. Despite being raised in captivity, primates retain their natural instincts, such as movement, exploration of surroundings, and escape from frightening situations. Severe restraint or confinement, such as that involving restraint chairs, is one of the most stressful things that can be done to a primate. This kind of restraint often involves a long "training" process. The situation is exacerbated when the motion of a primate is further limited by the use of surgically implanted restraining bars. Experiments that utilize these procedures are unethical.

Any project that involves these research techniques should be considered as falling into the USDA reporting category E, causing more than momentary unrelieved pain and distress. Practices such as these should be eliminated from the research programs of any progressive institution that performs animal experimentation.



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