



Patron: Professor John Coetzee

AIMS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANE RESEARCH INC.

- To promote all viable methods of healing which do not at any stage involve the use of animals.
- To promote the use of scientific alternatives in all forms of medical, scientific and commercial research.
- To help disseminate evidence, as it becomes available, that the use of alternatives is less costly, more accurate and more humane than the use of animals in experiments.
- To work for the abolition of all experiments using animals.

Welcome

Spring is here and what a busy year we've had already! We've been run off our feet in the last few months, but it's been a positive few months as well. A very special thank you for the enormous support we have received from so many members and supporters Australia-wide. It's very satisfying and once again lets us know that what we do means so much to so many people.

I'd also like to take the time to thank all our members and supporters who attended our "Evening with Dr. Jonathan Balcombe" in July. Dr Balcombe discussed the ability of animals to experience sentience and emotions and promoted his new book "Pleasurable Kingdom", copies of which sold out on the night! It was a truly enjoyable evening at the well-known Soulbar in St Kilda, and wonderful to meet so many new members.

My time in Tasmania was also very worthwhile. I presented "Animal Experimentation – a Vicious Circle?" which is now available on our website under "Papers and Articles". It was also a great opportunity to meet with a number of academics who have an interest in animal welfare. Most pleasing was the knowledge that we are starting to build very solid support in Tasmania and I will certainly look forward to the next opportunity to visit there again as soon as possible.

I do hope you find our Newsletter interesting and encourage you to give us feedback on it and any questions or current issues you would like us to explore.

Until next quarter, bye for now.

Helen Rosser

Upcoming expos

AAHR will have a presence at the following expos. Please call in and say hello if you can, and support these great events!

World Vegan Day Picnic, Melbourne

Sunday 28th October, 10am – 5pm
Phoenix Community Reserve, East Malvern, Vic.

Cruelty Free Living Festival, Sydney

Sunday 4th November, 10am – 4pm
Petersham Town Hall, 107 Crystal Street, Petersham NSW

Ex-research dogs requiring homes

While it's not normal practice for AAHR to pass on emails to members and supporters seeking homes for dogs, an email was received in June that we considered an exceptional case.



Twelve male Border collie crosses were held at the University of Melbourne Vet Clinic in Werribee as part of a 3-year study on reproduction. The collies had implants to stop sperm production and were to be put down quickly unless they found new homes.

AAHR does not endorse any use of animals in research, and we were concerned that this appeal for help could be considered a compromise on our abolitionist stance.

A number of emails circulated about these dogs and we were pleased to learn that the university was swamped with calls – indicating that many people do feel very sympathetic about animal experiments.

Due to the huge interest in the collies we'd like to suggest that anyone wishing to help with the re-homing of animals – either from research establishments or from being abandoned - should contact Michaela Newell who sends out regular updates of similar situations. Michaela's email is mnewell@hn.ozemail.com.au.

Logan Pound update

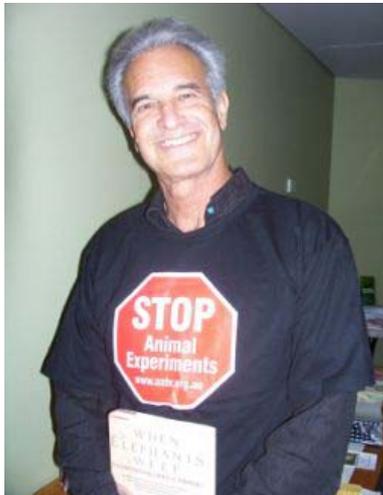
Following our recent campaign and submission of petitions to Logan Council (Qld) we have learned from RSPCA Qld that the Council no longer sends their pound animals to research.

We are of course seeking verification from the Council itself and will keep you updated on this possible victory. In the meantime, to all those local members and supporters – Well done!

Celebrity Supporters

Over the last couple of months we have invited various celebrities and high profile people that support AAHR's philosophy, to submit a comment of support with their photo, and we have added these to the new celebrity support page on our website.

These people have shared their thoughts about animal experimentation that will help us with our campaign of ending research that involves animals.



Author Jeffrey Masson:

"It seems to me dubious that we have gained knowledge from animal experiments that we could not have had from other sources. But even if we could be certain that conducting an animal experiment would lead to knowledge useful for humans, I still think it would be wrong to conduct them. Some things should simply not be done, simply because they are wrong"

Adalita (Magic Dirt):

"I want all experiments on animals to stop as soon as possible. These live experiments use force to inflict all manner of pain and abuse upon an innocent living being. This is violence. If these same things were done to our pets, we would be horrified and it would be punishable by law. Yet this violence is happening to millions of innocent beings all around the world. It's time for humanity to realise that these experiments are erroneous, outdated and profoundly unethical. It's time to set the animals free."



Armchair supporters – Get involved!

AAHR often writes to the media in response to animal experimentation issues seen in newspapers, magazines and on television. How often do you see the headline "Researchers cure cancer in rats" or "Miracle drug cures arthritis in primates"? How often do these claims translate into human health benefits?

We are bombarded with opportunities to bring the futility of vivisection to the consciousness of the community.

Maybe this publicity stirs you because animals are being harmed? Or perhaps you are angered because you and/or your loved ones are denied medical progress while vital research is delayed by misleading animal data? Whatever your reason, it's now easier than ever to add your voice to the growing public opposition of animal experiments by joining the AAHR Writers Group.

Contact our office at info@aahr.org.au or via the street address on the front of this newsletter, to express your interest in joining the group. We will then provide you with a writer's pack consisting of background material to help you with your letters, along with media addresses and writing tips. Members of the group will be encouraged to scan the media and network with other members in all states to capitalise on letter-writing opportunities.

Think before giving...to animal experiments

You want to help ease human suffering, like all of us, so give generously to charities searching for treatment and cures to disease. But did you know that some charities might use your donation to fund animal testing?

Most charities involved in animal experiments are reluctant to advertise this fact. And rarely, if ever, do their high profile campaigns or celebrity endorsements tell the public that their money will directly fund this work.

You may recognise the following approaching high-profile charity days. Funds raised on these days WILL fund animal experiments, as confirmed by their respective websites.

What's the Buzz Day (Diabetes Australia)

Friday 21st September

World Heart Day (Heart Foundation)

30 September 2007

Walk to Cure Diabetes (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation)

14 October 2006

Pink Ribbon Day (Cancer Council Australia)

22 October 2006

World Diabetes Day (Diabetes Australia)

14 November 2006

You can make a difference!

If you do not support animal research, please contact the above charities and politely voice your concerns about animal testing.

You can also check out the Humane Charities list - it's the easiest way for donors to spot charities who provide ethical patient care and/or meet their research needs exclusively through non-animal methods. Humane Charities gives ethical donors the opportunity to make a difference, by contributing to medical progress without animal suffering. See www.humanecharities.com.au.

Annual General Meeting

Yes it's September and we'll soon be reflecting on another twelve months at our upcoming Annual General Meeting. A notice will be issued to members shortly providing details and an agenda.

We intend making it as interesting and informative as possible and so we do encourage you to attend - to meet our Management Committee and staff and to learn more about our campaigns opposing animal research.

Humane Education

On Monday 9th July, AAHR held a very special event - "An evening with Dr Jonathan Balcombe." An immensely enjoyable night was had by all at the Soulbar in St Kilda and we thank them for allowing us to use their premises.

Our AAHR Education Officer, Carrie Barnes had the pleasure of interviewing Dr Balcombe about his thoughts on animal dissection in schools. Here is an extract of that interview:

Carrie Barnes: What advice do you have for students considering a career in science but having aversions to animal dissection or using animals within scientific disciplines; for example in anatomy, physiology and biological studies?

(Dr) Jonathan Balcombe: The first step would be to do some homework to find out what your school typically does in terms of whether they do dissection. If they do, find out what types of animals they dissect and in what classes, and then, what alternatives may be available. Usually you're not going to get offered any alternatives unless you approach the teacher. Also do some homework, look on the internet, prepare in advance and you are more likely to have success.

There's a lot of good scientific evidence that supports students who want to use alternatives.

CB: Why do you think that animals are still being used in schools, and why do you think particularly the older style science teachers are still utilising animal dissection methods of teaching?

JB: Inertia. They learn the methods that were taught to them and then it is passed on through the generations. In a way part of the effort is to break that cycle and whenever we get alternatives in the classroom and whenever you get a conscientious objector or more, it's another nail in the coffin for the old methods of teaching.

CB: Do you think in the near future that these sorts of methods will change, knowing that there are alternative teaching models available that can be just as good if not better?

JB: There are definitely signs that there is a gradual trend away from traditional teaching methods that use animals. In the United States in the last 20 years about 10 states have passed student choice laws (permitting students to refuse to participate in classroom activities that cause harm to animals). Whether the numbers of conscientious objectors are growing, I don't know, but I would guess that they are particularly because the laws are going to encourage students to make a choice. As for the quality of the alternatives themselves, of course there are many different ones for dissection, some are better than others and they are tailored for different age groups. And there's



Carrie Barnes, Helen Rosser and Emma Burgess with Dr Jonathan Balcombe at Soulbar.

no reason to use only one. A combination of them is the best way to learn. For example a computer program with three-dimensional models and photographic images. The scientific evidence is that (alternatives) are better. That's looking at the retention of knowledge and breadth of knowledge. And that's not even considering the ethical aspect which is another advantage to the alternatives. Students are given the crystal clear message that an animal's most precious commodity - its most precious interest - is life, and that can't just be sacrificed for a relatively trivial interest of teaching the anatomy of an organism (by way of dissection) especially when that anatomy is already well known.

Members' Forum

Dear Helen,

I have heard that translation (from animals to humans) of some cures that had been tested on animals using thalidomide in the early 60s or even late 50s caused birth deformities in humans, but how many other examples are there? I know of the one last year in the UK which caused elephantine results in humans, but would've thought you could have a list on your website of these such examples? Think it helps to point at numbers & examples when we are arguing the case.

Just a thought and keep up the good work.

Yours,
John Peters,
Ringwood Vic.

Thanks for your suggestion John. Yes, drugs that have "successfully" been tested on animals are regularly withdrawn from the market or have warnings issued against them. However it's only the extreme cases like thalidomide and the TGN1412 (UK) trials that attract media attention.

AAHR does maintain a database of drug recalls and we have just added them to our website as you've suggested.

Profile of a humane charity – The Bonnie Babes Foundation



Humane Charities Project Coordinator, Emma Burgess spoke to Debbie Chalmers from the Bonnie Babes Foundation.



What is Bonnie Babes and what is its vision?

The Bonnie Babes Foundation is a non-profit volunteer based charity that was established in 1994 for the health and well-being of families. It helps to save babies' lives and counsels families through extreme hardship.

In Australia, 1 in 20 babies are born prematurely, with almost half of these babies needing life support in a neo-natal intensive care unit. The equipment is expensive but sometimes only technology can help these babies. The Foundation's aim is to fund raise to help these special little babies and increase their chances of survival.

What are the statistics of stillbirth, premature birth and miscarriage in Australia?

Sadly over 50,000 babies are lost in Australia each year from miscarriage and stillbirth.

Over 17,000 babies are born prematurely, many of them often struggling for life. One in four pregnancies ends in a loss.

What are the current activities of Bonnie Babes?

The foundation is currently focusing on a number of different projects including:

Ambulatory fetal activity monitoring predicts clinical outcome.

A small number of babies die unexpectedly while still in the womb: the numbers are much higher than those dying from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Some of these babies slow their movements down in the days before death. Bonnie Babes is developing a way of recording baby's movements, which still lets the pregnant mother continue with her normal activities.

Bonnie Babes does this using an ambulatory fetal activity monitor, which is an accelerometer, like an advanced pedometer. The ambulatory fetal activity monitor will measure the activity of the unborn baby during pregnancy, looking at the number of times s/he moves and how simple or complex the movements are.

The unborn baby who is not getting enough nutrition during the pregnancy will generally have fewer movements than other unborn babies so the activity monitor acts as an alert mechanism to seek medical assistance.

Undergraduate midwifery students' first clinical encounters with stillbirth and neonatal death.

This study seeks to explore undergraduate midwifery students' first encounters with stillbirth and neonatal death. Until recently, midwifery students were registered nurses prior to commencing midwifery studies so had encountered death and dying, but not necessarily in regards to babies. However, with the introduction of direct entry undergraduate programs in Victoria, midwifery students no longer have this clinical experience.

Fibronectin Units.

Fetal Fibronectin units are used to detect pre-term labour in the third trimester of pregnancy and can potentially save a baby's life.

A swab detects the evidence of fibronectin, which in lay terms is the glue that surrounds the baby during pregnancy. If fibronectin is evident it means the glue is breaking away and the baby's life is in danger. It can also mean a woman may go into pre-term labour in the third trimester and potentially the baby could be stillborn.

So the fibronectin units can potentially save a baby's life if the doctors are given sufficient time to take the necessary action. The unit is particularly useful for rural hospitals that may have to airlift a mother to deliver her pre-term baby in a city hospital with appropriate medical equipment and staff.

National Babies Day is coming up on the 19th October, how will the funds raised be used?

Funds are raised through the sale of merchandise at cash registers at all Target stores during September and October. National Babies Day raises much needed funds to help decrease the loss of children every year in Australia and provide a better quality of life for babies born prematurely struggling for survival on life support. The funds will also enable the charity to continue its 24 hour, 7 day a week help line.

National Babies Day is about remembering the babies who passed away too soon and celebrating the lives of healthy babies across Australia. The campaign inspires the public to "Go Ga-Ga" for National Babies Day.

The Bonnie Babes Foundation has a policy that no animal experiments are to be conducted in any research being conducted relating to the Foundation.

Contact Details:

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Fax – 03 9803 2699

enquiry@bbf.org.au

www.bbf.org.au

SCIENCE NEWS - Australia

Alternative toxicity testing

Scientists at the University of New South Wales (including AAHR member Dr Amanda Hayes) have developed a way to test airborne toxicants for effects on human cells by exposing the cultured cells on a porous polyester membrane. Previously, tests involved forcing rats or other animals to inhale specific concentrations of chemicals for certain periods of time. The new method's performance compared favorably with animal-based tests and has been recognized by the 2006 Australian Museum Voiceless Eureka Prize for Research, which rewards scientists for work that reduces the use of animals in science.

Source: Good Medicine, PCRM, Spring 2007, Vol.XVI, No.2

Australian Synchrotron

On his first day in office, new Victorian Premier John Brumby officially opened the Australian Synchrotron, located next to Monash University's Clayton campus on the 31st July.

A synchrotron is a large machine (about the size of a football field) that accelerates electrons to almost the speed of light. As the electrons are deflected through magnetic fields they create extremely bright light.

The light is channeled down beams to experimental workstations where it is used for research.

For the life sciences it is an essential tool for the structural and conformational (i.e. shape) analysis of proteins, nucleic acids and viruses. It brings new techniques for the imaging of cells and biological structures and for studying cellular interactions in real time.

Source: Monash University Alumni enews, August 2007

AAHR Comment: We are contacting the university to obtain more information on the impact of the synchrotron and whether this will lead to a reduction in animal testing.

SCIENCE NEWS - International

Episkin replacing animal tests

Episkin, which has been developed by L'Oreal, is a reconstructed human skin that has become the first complete replacement for animal testing of cosmetics.

Since the European Union's Cosmetics Directive has placed bans on animal testing from 2009, the search for animal alternatives has become urgent and cosmetic companies have little choice but to adopt alternative methods.

Episkin is grown from skin cells that are left over from breast surgery and has shown in some cases a more accurate result than using animal tests.

Source: New Scientist, 28 July 2007

AAHR comment: This great news potentially means that other cosmetic companies globally will be pushed by market forces to follow L'Oreal's lead thereby further reducing the testing of cosmetics on animals.

Toxicity Studies

As part of a collaboration between the NC3Rs (National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research, UK) and the European pharmaceutical industry, a working group of 15 international companies has been sharing and analysing the value of data from single dose rodent acute toxicity studies. The conclusion from this extensive review is that the information obtained from conventional acute toxicity studies is of little or no value in the pharmaceutical development process.

The report of the workshop concludes that toxicity data are:

- Extremely limited, concentrating on minimum lethal and maximum non-lethal doses.
- Of less use than other, less harmful, animal tests that are superior for deciding appropriate doses for further animal studies.
- Not particularly useful for information on the nature of toxic effects, which are better evaluated in other routine studies.
- Not, in practice, used to set doses in the first human clinical trials because other routine studies provide more informative data.

Source: NC3Rs e-newsletter - Issue 11, 7th July 2007

Scotland opposes primate research

All seven Scottish Members of the European Parliament have put their signatures to Written Declaration (WD) 40/2007 to put a stop to primate tests in Europe. They join 179 MEPs representing every country in Europe and every political persuasion, who have also signed the declaration.

The Written Declaration calls for urgent action to end experiments on apes and wild caught monkeys and for the European Parliament to set a timetable to replace all experiments on primates.

Source: [http://www.politics.co.uk/press-releases/zopinion-former-index/animal-welfare/adi-scotland-goes-ape-every-scottish-mep-backs-call-end-primate-testing-\\$475539.htm](http://www.politics.co.uk/press-releases/zopinion-former-index/animal-welfare/adi-scotland-goes-ape-every-scottish-mep-backs-call-end-primate-testing-$475539.htm)

BUAV court case against UK Government

The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) took the UK government to court over its duty to cut suffering to laboratory animals.

There has been a 4% rise in procedures carried out on animals in 2006 - the greatest increase in five years. The case sought a declaration that the government has failed to ensure animal suffering in Home Office licensed laboratories is kept to a minimum. The BUAV asked the judge to order the Home Office to re-examine its licensing regulations.

The High Court in London ruled that the government has been underplaying the severity of suffering by animals in laboratory experiments. The BUAV had challenged the Home Office over the way it categorises different types of "procedures". If the severity is classed as "moderate" rather than "substantial" then the professed "benefits" to human medicine need to be less than if the animals are subjected to greater trauma.

The court ruling should mean that more prospective experiments will be classed as substantial and consequently more should fail the cost benefit test. This will result in fewer experiments being authorised.

The government plans to appeal the July 27 ruling.
Sources: BBC News - Science / Nature, 23 July 2007 and Animal Aid news 02 August 2007 www.animalaid.org.uk

PEOPLE

St. Columba College helps the animals

A special thanks to Jessica Mackintosh and her friends at St. Columba College in Andrews Farm, South Australia. Their assignment on animal testing for the Studies of Societies subject involved collecting petitions and selling AAHR merchandise including pens, stickers and notepads. The girls raised \$93 for AAHR and most importantly, raised awareness about animal experimentation among their colleagues and families.

Great work girls.

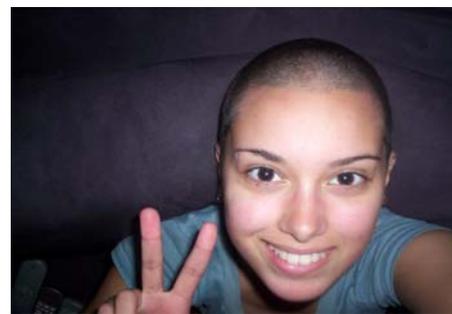


Natalie did it!

True to her word, supporter Natalie Tabone shaved her head on 30th June to raise awareness and funds for AAHR.

We'd like to express our sincere gratitude to Natalie for taking on such a brave commitment, and to all those people (including AAHR members) who supported her.

Her effort raised a total of \$1,002.95. Fantastic work Natalie. We hope its not too chilly!



Merchandise

Be early for Christmas!

With Christmas creeping up on us many are already making plans on what gifts to buy for family and friends. Please consider the AAHR catalogue when making your choices.

Our merchandise such as donation certificates, T-shirts



and shopping bags also helps to raise awareness of the futility and cruelty of using animals in research.

Donation certificates: \$25, \$50 or \$100

'Stop' T-shirts: \$25 (most sizes available).

Environmentally friendly shopping bags: \$4



Dilga Organics - The home of organic, preservative-free, vegan wines are proud to present their grand opening at the World Vegan Day, 28th of October 2007. They will be holding tastings and offering specials for everyone on the day.

They currently have a special for twenty AAHR members: Order today and receive a free bottle of Dilga's own - your choice of 2002 Dry white / 2002 Cab Sav / 2002 Shiraz (valued up to \$32 per bottle) with your first order.

Dilga Organics also has free rewards for AAHR members when joining up with their wine club, where you can choose to receive 12 bottles of wine every month or 3 months - and every 12th bottle in that case is FREE!

All AAHR members receive a 7% discount on all purchases above 6 bottles of wine.

Contact:

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