Committee to review new research projects

Beginning this month, all uses of animals in laboratory research at Ohio State will come under the scrutiny of a select committee charged with safeguarding the welfare and care of the animals.

This action, announced last month, is the latest in a series of moves by the University to maintain high levels of care and treatment of the animals in its charge.

Under the new guidelines, every proposed research project using animals will be reviewed by a Universitywide committee before it can begin. In the past, only certain types of laboratory research required such prior review concerning animal care.

The review will be conducted by the Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee (ILACUC) which will be composed largely of members of the University’s existing Laboratory Animal Care Committee.

The decision to create the new committee and to increase its responsibilities is linked to new guidelines established by the U.S. Public Health Service.

The new guidelines call for the establishment of such a committee at any institution receiving research funding from the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, the Public Health Service and various other federal agencies. The guidelines will be applied to all uses of live, vertebrate animals under University auspices.

Some of the ILACUC’s duties will include the following:
- An annual review of the University’s program of animal use and care;
- Inspection of all University animal facilities at least annually;
- Review and approval or disapproval of the use of animals in all proposed activities or significant changes regarding the use of animals in ongoing activities;
- Review and, where warranted, suspension of any activity at the institution involving the care and use of animals.

All activities will have to conform to the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals prepared by the National Institutes of Health.

Those provisions govern such topics as the propriety of using animals for specific research, the avoidance or minimization
of pain inflicted, the administration of anesthesia and analgesia where necessary, the kind of living conditions and medical care given to the animals and the methods of euthanasia used in research projects.

The actual adoption of these changes will be phased in during a six-month period.

By Jan. 1, researchers must have their animal use protocols approved by the ILACUC for any research proposals intended for submission to the Public Health Service, the Department of Defense and its agencies, the American Heart Association and the Central Ohio Heart Association. Also, any significant changes in the use of animals in current research projects also must receive ILACUC approval.

By May 1, the need for approved animal use protocols will extend to all research proposals intended to be submitted to any outside funding agency, including changes in existing projects.

By July 1, all research, instructional and other activities using laboratory animals, whether funded externally or not, must be approved by the ILACUC. Similar approval for existing projects will be due before any continuation or renewal grants will be accepted by the University.

The only two exceptions for these institutional guidelines are those that involve farm animals according to standard industry practices that do not constitute biomedical research, and those activities involving the treatment of client-owned animals brought to the Veterinary Hospital for care.

J. Fred Cornhill, professor of surgery and chairman of the ILACUC, said that the committee plans on operating its protocol reviews on a monthly basis. Researchers submitting completed protocols by the second Monday of the month should expect to have them fully processed by the fourth Monday of that same month. The procedures are going into effect this month.

Questions about the new procedures and how they will affect ongoing and future research should be directed to Cornhill or to the Animal Review Desk, 205 Research Center, 1314 Kinnear Road, 422-4494. Forms for submission of the new protocols are available from the Animal Review Desk or from the dean's offices in the colleges of Agriculture, Biological Sciences, Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Social and Behavioral Sciences and Veterinary Medicine.
How science cares for its animals

Stories by Earle Holland
Panel to check treatment of OSU research animals

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch OSU Reporter

Rats for research could be among man’s best friends, and a new committee at Ohio State University will be looking out for their welfare.

Beginning in January, the 16-member Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee will review animal research proposals involving money from the U.S. Public Health Service and other agencies.

New Public Health Service guidelines require an institution to approve proposals before they are submitted to the agency, said Thomas Sweeney, OSU associate vice president for research.

OSU decided to take the process further, he said. By July, the committee will examine all proposals for research and instructional use of animals throughout OSU, he said.

“We will challenge our researchers and instructors” about possibly using fewer animals, different species or alternative research methods, Sweeney said.

COMMITTEE members include a medical student, a community member, administrators, physicians, professors and other representatives from the colleges that do the most animal research.

Although some committee members are or have been involved in animal research themselves, Sweeney does not expect that to hinder them in making responsible decisions.

“I think everyone on there loves animals,” he said. “We look for people who are sensitive, and we want to be as open as possible.”

In addition to approving all projects, the committee will inspect OSU animal-care facilities at least once a year and will review OSU procedures to assure humane care and use of animals, Sweeney said.

A similar committee already does many of these things, but “the difference is we’re now getting formal in terms of review,” he said.

KENNETH SLOAN, director of OSU’s Research Foundation, said the new committee will “reinforce to the community that we truly care about the use of animals.”

Sloan and Sweeney said they do not expect rejection of many research proposals, but they said they do expect committee members will suggest changes in some approaches.

Harry Rozmiarek, laboratory animal resources director, said OSU used 35,772 animals in research projects from June 1984 to June 1985. Of those, 30,045 were rats or mice.

OSU does not accept or buy animals unless a specific research proposal has been approved, Rozmiarek said. Some are client-owned animals treated by medical or other procedures still considered experimental.

Rozmiarek helped revise the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, published by the Public Health Service.

Sloan said he could not determine how much money OSU receives or allocates each year to animal research and does not know how many proposals the committee will review. He estimated that OSU researchers will ask for Public Health Service funding for about 150 projects in 1986.

At OSU, the colleges of medicine, veterinary medicine, biological sciences and pharmacy use animal research the most, said Sloan. Dentistry, agriculture and social and behavioral sciences use animals to a lesser extent.

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Source: Harry Rozmiarek, OSU director of laboratory animal resources
New committee controls lab animal use; strict guidelines will not inhibit research

By John L. Greene
Lantern Staff Writer

Those who lose sleep at night worrying about those cute little rats and mice used in research can rest a little easier.

Lab animals will continue to be used, but a new committee has been formed to make sure animals are treated as humanely as possible prior to and during research.

Starting this month, the Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee will be in charge of monitoring animal welfare and care at Ohio State.

The committee was formed in response to guidelines recently set by the U.S. Public Health Service. These guidelines require any institution using research animals and receiving funding from various federal agencies to set up such a committee.

"We're trying to make sure that the university is exercising proper care for animals used in research programs, and by setting up this committee we are simply getting more formal," said Thomas L. Sweeney, Associate Vice President for Research.

"We're trying to make sure that the university is exercising proper care for animals used in research programs.

— Thomas L. Sweeney, Associate Vice President for Research.

"Hopefuly we have designed a process that won't slow down any research being done on campus," he said.

"One area of research may be inhibited by the new committee, however. "There will most likely be restrictions in the number of animals used in teaching programs," Cornhill said.

"Both Sweeney and Cornhill said OSU was stricter in the welfare and care of research animals than most federal agencies prior to the guidelines established by the U.S. Public Health Service."
The care and treatment of laboratory research animals is just as big an issue on campus now as it was when reported in September 1983 (Vol. 6, No. 1).

The latest battle in what the *Quest* article called "the great animal rights war" occurred when Harry Rozimarek, Ohio State's director of laboratory animal resources, was appointed to the Capital Area Humane Society in August.

Rozimarek's appointment brought a storm of protest from animal rights activists who felt there was a conflict of interest in his sitting on the board.

While that controversy raged, however, Ohio State was taking additional steps to protect animals used in research.

"I don't think there's any question that there have been major changes in the way we conduct research with animals at Ohio State," said Fred Cornhill, professor of surgery.

Cornhill is chair of the Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee, which, beginning last December, has been charged with safeguarding the welfare and care of animals at the University.

The committee has implemented a new stringent review process that will ensure that animal research is conducted safely and humanely at Ohio State, Cornhill said.
Animals misused,

By Lynn Hamilton
Lantern staff writer

An OSU orthopedic research project has been suspended indefinitely following a review of the use of laboratory animals in the study.

A report issued Tuesday by the university's Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee said unapproved methods were used on the animals.

The committee, which regulates all laboratory animal use at Ohio State, recommended the research be suspended. Research suspension is the strongest action the committee can take.

Marvin L. Olmstead, associate professor of veterinary clinical sciences, led the research that used 80 rabbits and 13 monkeys to study a procedure to speed healing after knee surgery.

The research involves surgically damaging lab animals' joints to simulate human knee injury.

J. Fred Cornhill, acting director of the Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee, said there were two problems that prompted the committee to suspend the experiment.

First, the research called for the animals to be restrained while one limb was attached to a machine to cause passive movement in that limb. The committee found the animals were not being properly trained for use with the research halted

machines. The training period had been reduced from a gradual program over several days before surgery to a session of only several hours before surgery, Cornhill said.

The other problem involved Olmstead's lack of criteria to remove the animals from the experiment if problems developed.

Cornhill said Olmstead did not define a specific point to take the animals off the machines if further injuries developed.

The National Institute of Health, which funded the research, has also been notified, Cornhill said.

The report said the animals had experienced lesions and that no analgesics were given. However, the report said most of the researchers did not see measurable pain in the animals, and that proper veterinary care was given to injured animals.

All animals used in the project are scheduled to be put to sleep.

The committee also recommended:

- An audit of the three other research projects currently under Olmstead's leadership.
- A call to the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies to instruct veterinarians supervising animal lab use to report any variations on approved research procedures involving the animals.
- A review of the current university procedures concerning laboratory animal use.
- The immediate appointment of an interim veterinarian from the College of Veterinary Medicine to be responsible for all activities using laboratory animals.

Cornhill said similar cases in other institutions have resulted in the National Institute of Health suspending research and removing funds. He said the committee could not speculate what actions would be taken against Ohio State.
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Ohio State University officials have indefinitely suspended an orthopedic research project following a review of the use of laboratory animals in the study.

In a report released Tuesday (3/10), the university's Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee (ILACUC) recommended a suspension of all experiments that are part of an ongoing study of articular cartilage healing and passive motion.

A suspension is the strongest action the committee can take involving the use of laboratory animals in research. The university has notified the National Institutes of Health, which funded the research, of this action.

Marvin L. Olmstead, an associate professor of veterinary clinical sciences, is the principal investigator for the project, a collaborative effort with University of Iowa researchers. The study was intended to test the benefits of a procedure that is widely used to promote healing following knee surgery.

The report said that the principal investigator did not follow the animal use protocol that had been approved by the committee. The ILACUC must approve proposed protocols, or procedures, for animal use in all research at Ohio State before that research can be undertaken. Any later change in those protocols during the course of the research must be approved by the committee.
The committee also called for an outside review of all data and results from the current research to assess the scientific merit of the work. In addition, the report asked for an audit of all research protocols which are under the direction of this principal investigator.

The report also asked that the vice president for research and graduate studies, the university provost and the advisory committee to the Office of University Laboratory Animal Resources, a group made up mainly of deans of the institution's colleges, investigate new ways of insuring that the ILACUC will be informed immediately of "any variance from approved protocols."

The ILACUC report also called for the College of Veterinary Medicine to immediately appoint an interim attending veterinarian with full responsibility for all activities using laboratory animals in research and instruction in the college. This would include the daily personal observation of animals and the monitoring of their health and welfare, the report said.

This project was intended to test the benefits of using passive motion therapy to promote post-operative healing. In this procedure, patients who are recovering from knee surgery are placed on passive motion machines that exercise the knee joints while they heal.

This regular movement of the joint, beginning shortly after surgery and continuing for several weeks, is thought to be beneficial to cartilage healing, as well as prevent the stiffening of the joint and a loss of flexibility. The process, however, can cause some discomfort for the patient and the equipment used is
expensive for hospitals to provide.

Earlier studies by other researchers using rabbits indicated that the procedure improved the healing of cartilage in the knee joints. The Ohio State project used both rabbits and monkeys and was intended to test those findings.

In the study, the animals underwent knee surgery and were placed in restraint devices during their recovery. For each animal, one knee was held immobile in a cast in a manner similar to conventional treatment for normal bone fractures. The other leg was attached to a passive motion machine which flexed the knee joint while it healed.

An inspection by officers of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prompted the university to investigate the matter. The ILACUC temporarily suspended experimental work on the project, called for an evaluation of the health of the animals still held for the research and formed a subcommittee charged with interviewing participants in the project and reviewing the study's research logs. The full committee met last Friday to approve the report.

The ILACUC report stated that the principal investigator had not followed the prescribed conditioning regimen required to acclimatize the rabbits or the monkeys to the equipment. The report emphasized, however, that the committee was unable to link the reduced conditioning period to any of the health problems later reported in the animals.

The approved protocol for the project also required the use of analgesics if there was evidence of pain during the experimental procedures. While these were not used during the project, the
majority of the people involved in the project reported that the animals did not exhibit pain in the course of the study.

The report also stated that the investigator "appeared to provide appropriate medical care as each condition arose and altered the apparatus in an attempt to eliminate the conditions that led" to the animals' health problems.

In accepting the committee's report, Jack M. Hollander, vice president for research and graduate studies, said: "The university is committed to a broadly based faculty research program dedicated to improving the health and the quality of life."

"In all research with animals, our policy is to adhere strictly to protocols insuring humane care and treatment.

"Our animal care committee has investigated the questions that have been raised, and we shall take any actions necessary to insure that our policies are carried out.

"The university is re-examining our monitoring procedures throughout the institution in order to assure that all research protocols are being followed."

Ohio State's research programs routinely meet the federal guidelines imposed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Animal Welfare Act and the National Institutes of Health. In addition, several colleges, including the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Laboratory Animal Center on campus meet the more stringent standards of the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care.

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Contact: J. Fred Cornhill, chairman of the Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee and acting director of laboratory animal resources at Ohio State, (614) 292-5570. Written by Earle Holland.
OSU suspends research after animal mishandling charges

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch OSU Reporter

The alleged mishandling of rabbits and monkeys in orthopedic research at Ohio State University has resulted in suspension of the experiments and a review of the investigator’s other work.

Marvin L. Olmstead, an associate professor of veterinary clinical sciences, is the principal investigator for the project, which tests the benefits of using motion to promote healing after knee surgery.

OSU’s Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee recommended the suspension in a report released yesterday. Suspension is the strongest action the committee could take. The panel was established in February 1986 to review the use of animals in research and instruction at OSU.

ABOUT HALF of the 80 rabbits and 13 monkeys in the project had health problems that included abrasions, abscesses, pressure sores, paralysis and weight loss, said Fred Cornhill, OSU’s acting director of laboratory animal resources and committee chairman. The incidence was higher than it should have been, he said.

In the study, holes were made in an animal’s joint cartilage. The animal then was placed in restraints. One knee was held immobile in a cast. The other was attached to a machine that exercised the joint.

The OSU report said Olmstead did not properly acclimate the animals to the equipment, although the committee did not link this to the health problems reported later.

“We do not believe there was any overt mistreatment of animals.”

THE PROCEDURE required the use of analgesics if there was evidence of pain. Most of the technicians involved with the project said the animals did not exhibit pain. Analgesics were not used, “although it may be assumed that there was some degree of pain,” the report said.

The report said Olmstead appeared to provide appropriate care as each health problem arose and altered the apparatus to try to eliminate the health problems.

OSU has notified the National Institutes of Health of the suspension. The institutes provided $100,000 to Olmstead for the three-year project, which is in its second year.

A routine U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection about three weeks ago prompted the OSU investigation, said Cornhill.

THE CASE is the first time the committee has suspended a research project. The National Institutes of Health has withdrawn funds from other institutions that took similar action, Cornhill said.

“We do not believe there was any overt mistreatment of animals,” Cornhill said. However, the suspension is “an indication of how seriously we take animal rights and welfare.”

Olmstead yesterday said, “The university has conducted an investigation. They feel they want some things clarified as far as this project is concerned. We’ll try to clarify what they want and come to a successful resolution.”

Olmstead has been at OSU 11 years.

The committee has reviewed about 700 procedures so far, Cornhill said. From June 1984 to June 1986, OSU used 35,772 animals in research projects. Cornhill was uncertain of the current figure but said it probably has declined since the committee was established.

THE COMMITTEE report said Olmstead did not follow the animal-use procedures that had been approved in August.

The committee called for an outside review of the project and other research proposals under Olmstead’s direction and asked OSU administrators to come up with better ways to inform the committee of procedural changes. Also, the report called for the College of Veterinary Medicine to immediately appoint an interim veterinarian to supervise activities involving laboratory animals in the college. The person in that position left last summer and has not yet been replaced, Cornhill said.

Some of the animals in Olmstead’s project have been put to sleep, as called for in the original procedures.
Groups to protest use of animals in labs

by Tim Doulin

Spuds MacKenzie, the canine star of movies and commercials, has a better chance of landing a television series.

But that doesn’t stop animal rights organizations from taking the fight to those who cannot speak for themselves. And today’s struggle is taken to Ohio State University.

“Ideally, we would like for anyone not to be used in the research laboratories,” said Robin Russell, rector of Protect Our Earth’s Resources, an animal welfare group. “Realistically, we know they are going to be used. We would just like to see it kept to a minimum.”

Russell and as many as 100 others will march across the OSU campus today to mark World Day for Laboratory Animals.

Animal welfare organizations across the country will hold demonstrations on behalf of thousands of animals who are killed in labs each year so researchers may develop medical information.

OSU has been targeted for the demonstration because about 33,000 animals were used in OSU research labs during a 12-month period from 1985 and 1986. Last month, an orthopedic research project was suspended after allegations that rabbits and monkeys had been mishandled.

Animal rights groups are asking OSU to account for animals used in school labs and to cut by 25 percent the number of lab animals used in education and research by 1989.

The groups also want a member of the animal welfare community to be allowed to attend meetings of the Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee, which must approve OSU animal research projects.

“We are not saying don’t use any animals in research,” Russell said. “But we would like to see them eliminate projects where animals don’t have to be used.”

Fred Cornhill, acting director of OSU laboratory resources, is not sure OSU can meet the demands of the animal rights groups. But he credits them for bringing about changes in the use of lab animals.

“Thanks to animal rights people, there is an increased awareness on the part of researchers to the sensitivity of use of animals in the laboratory,” Cornhill said. “In most cases, researchers won’t use animals unless they have to.”

Because lab animals are expensive and difficult to handle, more and more researchers are turning to alternate forms of collecting information, such as cell cultures, computer simulation and biochemical studies, Cornhill said.

Animals are used in the labs to study the integration of systems, Cornhill said. As an example, he said the animals help in studies of how the liver works with the gall bladder.

Videotapes and simulations are used more in classrooms. “But in some instances, it is hard to teach veterinary surgery without actually performing surgery on an animal,” Cornhill said.

About 87 percent of the lab animals are rats and mice. About 8 percent are dogs or cats. That is down from 7 percent in 1983-84.

“I think almost in every case at
Robin Russell, President of Protect Our Earth’s Treasures, rallies Friday a group of about 40 people, who protested Ohio State’s use of animals in laboratory research.

**Group fights for lab animal safety**

By Jeff Righter
Lantern staff writer

About 40 people marched Friday afternoon through the university medical complex protesting the use of laboratory animals in research projects.

Although the cool and damp weather made for a dismal day, “It’s never a nice day for the (laboratory) animals,” said Robin Russell, director of Protect Our Earth’s Treasures, an animal protection organization.

The marchers, led by Russell, chanted “What do we want? Animal rights! When do we want them? Now!” as they marched through the medical complex and assembled in front of buildings in which research was being conducted on laboratory animals.

Russell said the group is pushing for a 25 percent reduction in the number of laboratory animals used at Ohio State by 1989.

He said there is too much repetitive data from research conducted on lab animals. To demonstrate, he unrolled about 20 feet of computer-printed information detailing the effects of the drug PCP on humans. Russell said the effects of PCP on lab animals continue to be studied at Ohio State.

Russell said it is unrealistic to assume the use of lab animals will be abolished. He also said he knows not all animal research can be ended but he wants testing results to clearly demonstrate how it benefits humans.

Russell noted several instances in which he feels animals are misused. He objected to the use of live dogs in Physiology 311 labs and the use of baboons in a study of the effects of new drugs to treat osteoporosis.

The marchers were also concerned about last month’s allegations that monkeys and rabbits were mistreated in an orthopedic research project at Ohio State. The project was suspended and three others were ordered to be reviewed.

J. Fred Cornhill, acting director of the Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee, said all guidelines for animal research are signed by the department chairman and reviewed by the committee. This ensures research is justified and not duplicated.

Researchers use tissue cultures and computer simulation whenever possible. They also try to limit animal use because they are expensive, hard to handle and questioned ethically, Cornhill said.

In addition, the organization wants Ohio State to account for all the animals the university uses.

The group also wants a member of the animal welfare community to be allowed to attend any meetings and inspections held by the Institutional Laboratory of Animal Care and Use Committee, which regulates the use of laboratory animals in OSU research.

Cornhill said a member from the community, independent from the university, is currently a member. A student member also serves on the committee.
Lab animal case leads to $5,000 fine against OSU

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Staff Reporter

The Ohio State University has been fined $5,000 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for mishandling laboratory animals in an orthopedic research project in 1986 and 1987.

The federal agency charged that the university failed to provide adequate veterinary care for rabbits and monkeys, including sufficient exercise, analgesics for sores and pain and timely euthanasia when it was medically indicated.

The Agriculture Department also found the university housed some dogs, rabbits and cats in unsanitary conditions and neglected to store food and bedding supplies properly.

OSU has paid $2,500 of the penalty, and the agency agreed to suspend the rest if no more violations of the Animal Welfare Act occur in the next two years.

OSU did not admit or deny the charges but agreed to change its care and treatment of laboratory animals.

The rabbits and monkeys were used in a study of articular cartilage healing and passive motion. Marvin L. Olmstead, an associate professor of veterinary clinical sciences, was principal investigator for the project, which tested the benefits of using motion to promote healing after knee surgery.

OSU suspended the experiments in March 1987 when allegations of mishandling surfaced.

OSU's Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee, a federally mandated committee overseeing the use of laboratory animals, reviewed the project.
OSU fined $5,000 for animal abuse

By Beth Griese
Lantern staff writer

OHIO STATE was fined $5,000 July 29 after the U.S. Department of Agriculture charged the university with abusing laboratory animals.

Alan Christain, a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture, said Ohio State must pay half the fine and will not have to pay the rest if no more violations are charged in the next two years.

In THE settlement between Ohio State and the Department of Agriculture, the university neither admitted nor denied the charges, but agreed to pay the fine and follow the orders set by the agency.

No OSU employees were named, but the Department of Agriculture discovered 13 violations between March 1986 and March 1987 in an experiment studying joint healing and the effects of motion after surgery.

The animals involved in the study were kept at the university's Veterinary Hospital, 1935 Coffey Rd.

THE CHARGES listed failure to allow the rabbits to adapt to harnesses and slings used in the experiment and failure to treat a rabbit's broken bone until the morning after the injury.

The Department of Agriculture also charged Ohio State with failing to keep the food and bedding of guinea pigs, hamsters and cats clean and free from contamination.

ALLEGATIONS ALSO stated monkeys used for experiments were not treated for sores or given analgesics for pain, and that experiment areas were dirty and cages had not been cleaned.

In the settlement, the university waived any further legal action and was ordered to end violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

OHIO STATE was ordered to maintain a program of veterinary care for all animals. Any pain and distress of experimental animals has to be minimized, and includes the use of painkillers and euthanasia when necessary.

To comply with the settlement agreement, Ohio State must have an animal care committee submit semiannual reports of its actions and also give an area veterinarian detailed reports.

The university also must distribute copies of the settlement to all its employees and maintain an ongoing information program about the settlement.

IN ADDITION, the university was ordered to create a training program for all animal handlers.

Christain said training programs and reports are in the process of becoming mandatory for all labs using experimental animals.

According to the settlement, Ohio State received a similar order to end laboratory animal abuse in June 1983.
Animal abuse charges refuted

By Beth Griese
Lantern staff writer

The $5,000 settlement between Ohio State and the Department of Agriculture for charges of laboratory animal abuse was simply a way to avoid a long and expensive court procedure, said Jack M. Hollander, the vice president of Research and Graduate Studies.

"There was no abuse of lab animals," he said Monday.

Dr. Marvin L. Olmstead, the researcher named in the original charges, said none of the allegations made by the Department of Agriculture were ever proven or disproven. He said the case was settled to end the legal process.

"We have as great a concern as anyone that the animals used for scientific research be used properly," said Hollander.

The charges against Ohio State came through routine Animal Welfare inspections that resulted in charges of unapproved methods, said Alan Christain, with the Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Services. The inspections were unannounced.

Olmstead, who was researching the healing of joints, said he had succeeded in satisfying the requests of the Department of Agriculture and no major policy changes were necessary.

"The changes that were made in protocol were minor at best," Olmstead said.

Hollander said the charges from the Agricultural Department were based on a technical violation that was immediately corrected and settled routinely.

Olmstead said the original experiment involved in the allegations was completed on schedule and the animals were put to sleep according to routine procedures.

Although the suspension on Olmstead's experiment has been lifted, the experiment has not been continued due to contracting delays.

"Even before this started we have been concerned about the proper use of animals," Olmstead said. "This is what I have devoted my life to."

"We are the beneficiaries," Hollander said. "There's probably not one of us who's not had a friend or family member need treatment or drugs that relied on animal research."

The case was not the first involving animal abuse at Ohio State to be settled out of court. The university was charged in June 1983 for improper care and treatment of kittens in the Goss Hall research facility. Ohio State paid a $500 fine to avoid the expense of a long hearing.
Animal rights activists not satisfied with fine

By Beth Griese
Lantern Staff Writer

Although local animal rights groups are pleased that Ohio State has been fined for alleged laboratory animal abuse, they say the settlement was not enough and more has to be done by the government.

Robin Russell, director of Protect Our Earth's Treasures, said the university won't be hurt by fines and lawsuits.

Jim Ricketts, president of People for Animal Rights, called the settlement a slap on the wrist for Ohio State. "They should have been fined many times. Those guys have been getting away with murder."

In the settlement with the Department of Agriculture, Ohio State agreed to pay a $5,000 fine and follow government guidelines after being charged with misuse of laboratory animals.

Half of the fine does not have to be paid if no more violations are found within two years.

In the written settlement, Ohio State neither admitted nor denied the charges. However, Jack Holland, Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies, said no abuse of lab animals occurred.

The charges resulted from research done Dr. Marvin Olmstead studying the effects of passive motion on joint healing. Olmstead said he has always been concerned about the proper use of laboratory animals.

Both groups criticized animal research and the work of Olmstead.

"Olmstead has no concern for the well-being of those animals," Russell said.

"I think 95 percent of (animal research) is money wasted," said Ricketts. He said a lot of animal research is unnecessary and duplicated.

Olmstead said laboratory conditions are necessary for controlled studies and that clinical situations, with human subjects, present too many variables for accurate results.

"(The animal rights groups) happen to have condemned anything that is research oriented," he said.

Ricketts wants more monitoring of Ohio State procedures by external groups. "They're the only bunch that are not governed by an outside force," he said.

Russell said he wants an animal welfare representative to be a member of the Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee, the OSU group that monitors all laboratory work.
Animal tests justified

Vets claim OSU research crucial to reduce use of Draize testing

By Patrick I. Geyer
Lantern staff writer

A panel of researchers defended their use of animals in research at a press conference Thursday in the OSU Veterinary Hospital.

Five researchers explained the types of research they are involved in and why the use of animals is critical to the research.

The research discussed ranged from multiple sclerosis and leukemia to food allergies.

Dr. Gerald Silverman, director of University Laboratory Animal Resources, is doing research that might reduce the use of the Draize test. The Draize test is when solutions are put into the eyes of rabbits to test their toxicity.

"You have to show a product is safe," said Silverman. "Historically, the government has accepted the Draize test as being an appropriate way of proving a product is safe."

Silverman's research involves the use of protozoans, which are single-celled animals. The reaction of the protozoan is compared to the result of a previous Draize test with the same substance.

The Draize test was first institutionalized as a valid measure of the toxicity of chemicals in 1944 after many people complained about unsafe facial products.

"It was really a response to pressure that was put on the government to have safe products," Silverman said.

Silverman is a member of the Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee which oversees the care of laboratory animals at Ohio State.

"We review every activity that uses a live animal at Ohio State and insures that there is proper treatment and humane care," said Margaret Snyder, chairman of the committee. "At Ohio State, we've taken that a lot further than required."

Federal law mandates that every animal used for government-funded research be reviewed and proven that the animal is receiving humane treatment. Ohio State reviews every animal used in any research (funded either privately or publicly) and every animal used in instruction.

The committee has just received another 600 pages of guidelines that are amendments to the United States Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Act.

The people who take care of the animals are not employed by researchers and report to only one of the staff veterinarians.

"It builds a system of care in which the caretakers can report any misconduct or maltreatment of the animals to the attending veterinarian," said James Blake-see, associate professor of microbiology and veterinary pathobiology.
Animal rights activists keep tabs on OSU labs

By Alicia Springfield
Lantern staff writer

Saturday marks the end of World Week for Lab Animals, but debate on animals' confinement and use at Ohio State still continues.

Rob Russell, director of Protect Our Earth's Treasures, an animal rights organization, recently toured OSU's animal research facilities and asked for documents from the Institutional Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee, which tracks animal research on campus.

Russell said the documents he asked for include protocols for animal research and teaching methods.

"Protocols reveal what will be done to the animals, why they're needed, what anesthetics and dosages are given, and what kind of project it is," Russell said.

Russell said some of the documents P.O.E.T. requested haven't yet been received.

"We've been researching the OSU campus facilities since 1984," Russell said, "and since 1986-87, we've been receiving minutes which show the research going on in different colleges, and abstracts that aren't in-depth, like protocols."

In a P.O.E.T. newsletter, research of animals' lives in OSU labs was described in terms of cats having their heads dipped in liquid nitrogen, then being decapitated without the use of proper painkillers.

Dr. William Yonushonis, director of Ohio State's Laboratory of Animal Resources, said cats were decapitated for the purpose of recovering brain tissues for study, and the proper anesthetics were used.

Yonushonis said the Federal Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service Policy requires institutions that use animals in research to establish review committees.

Ohio State's committee, the ILACUC, reviews and approves research proposals, Yonushonis said. Ten other monitors ensure procedures are done correctly.

Yonushonis said the research foundation supports 11 different colleges in 22 facilities on campus, and the ILACUC visits each lab and animal facility to ensure its compliance with the Animal Welfare Act.

Yonushonis said protocols are reviewed monthly and yearly by the ILACUC.

He also said Ohio State has one of the top national research facilities, and all of its facilities are fully accredited by the Association for Accreditation of Lab Animal Care.

Some tissues, such as cancer agents, might be allowed to grow on animal models that relate to human conditions, but it's done to help stop cancer, Yonushonis said.

"Animals are euthanized before they can feel any pain or distress," Yonushonis said. "We don't do any unnecessary research. Research is done to better the lives of humans and animals,"
OSU back on track to ethical research

By Beth Clevenger
Lantern staff writer

Despite complaints by local animal rights activists, university officials say that all Ohio State animal research facilities comply with federal regulations.

In February, the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care released a report giving OSU deferred continued accreditation.

“The site team and the Council on Accreditation of AAALAC felt the institution was not fully meeting our set of standards, but felt that these shortcomings could quickly and easily be corrected,” said Dr. John Miller, the association’s executive director. “The university continues to be accredited while doing the corrections.”

Established in 1965, the group is a non-profit organization that examines the care and use of lab animals. Organizations voluntarily choose to be accredited by the association and are re-evaluated every three years.

“Institutions should be held in high regard if they choose to be accredited by AAALAC,” Miller said. “It is considered a mark of excellence.”

The Animal Welfare Act and the Public Health Services Policy on the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals are the only two government regulations for animal research. The organization is not affiliated with any government organizations.

“All of our facilities are in compliance with federal laws,” said Dr. William P. Yonushonis, OSU’s director of Laboratory Animal Resources. “By having AAALAC come in, we are raising our overall standard of excellence.”

The university disagreed with some of the group’s suggestions, but most of the problems that were identified were fixed or are planned to be fixed, Yonushonis said.

Although OSU and organization officials feel that the problems addressed in the report are not of major concern, others feel differently.

“This report raises concerns about how OSU is making decisions about these animals,” said Rob Russell, director of animal activist group Protect Our Earth’s Treasures. “There are a lot of things that OSU could be doing better.”

Some of the projects that were highlighted in the association’s report are issues that the activist group has been trying to draw attention to for a long time, Russell said.

Most of the problems focused on cleaning and repairing facilities, but overall, there were no threats to the health and welfare of the animals, Yonushonis said.

“If the problems would have been serious, we would have been put on probation,” he said.

Even though this is a voluntary accreditation program, organizations do have something to gain from it, Russell said.

“Funding organizations do look at this when deciding where to give money,” he said. “When the university is striving to be No. 1, the animals are the first to suffer.”

OSU officials agreed that the university does receive benefits from participating in accreditation programs like the association’s.

“When it comes to funding, being accredited provides an extra assurance that we are upholding the laws,” said Lane J. Wallace, associate dean of the Health Sciences Center. “This way, they know that the money is going to proper use.”

OSU was given 60 days to respond in writing to the report. The letter will be reviewed by the Council on Accreditation this month.
April 25, 2006
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Ohio State institutes changes in animal research program

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio State University announced today that it is in the process of revising its approach to managing and monitoring animal research programs.

This comes in response to concerns raised by the Council on Accreditation of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC), a voluntary membership, international organization which certifies animal care and use programs at research institutions.

“Ohio State is recognized nationally for the scope and quality of our animal research work, but we need to change and improve some of our approaches in order to meet the standards of best practices recommended by AAALAC,” explained Robert McGrath, senior vice president for research.
The announcement comes as university officials prepare for a May 21st hearing before AAALAC. While review by AAALAC is completely voluntary, many sponsors rely on its accreditation to insure best practices for human safety and animal wellbeing within an institution’s animal research program. The university was informed in February that it risks a revocation of its current accreditation if prescribed changes, identified as areas of concern in earlier years, were not implemented in a timely fashion.

A peer team of AAALAC reviewers visited the campus in October, 2005, and reviewed actions of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), inspected research laboratories, and interviewed research faculty and staff. While they reported favorably on many aspects of Ohio State’s programs, they also cited a number of serious weaknesses.

McGrath said that AAALAC’s primary concerns fell into three distinct categories:

• The need for an effective and comprehensive occupational health and safety program for faculty, staff and students engaged in animal-related research, along with improved record-keeping on training and individual health monitoring;
• Improvements in inspections and documentation of actions taken in laboratories where animals are housed or involved in surgical procedures;
• And strict enforcement of precise procedures required in IACUC-approved protocols to ensure and document compliance with all regulations, guidelines and best practices for the use of animals in research.

In a February 22, 2006 letter from University President Karen A. Holbrook to McGrath, she called the issues raised by the AAALAC reviewers “a very serious and unacceptable situation for this university,” and directed him to apply university resources as necessary to correct deficiencies in the university’s programs.

At the recommendation of AAALAC, the university contracted with two respected outside consultants, both peers at other top-tier research universities and both former members of AAALAC’s Board, to review the university’s plans and actions to correct those problems and advise additional efforts to strengthen Ohio State’s animal research program.

To date, the university has completed a number of major improvements in response to the AAALAC concerns and has other substantive changes in process. These include:

• All research faculty, staff and students who handle animals – more than 1,200 people – must now enroll in an online health registry to insure that they have completed a health assessment and appropriate training in both proper laboratory animal care and use, and in handling bio-hazardous materials where applicable. Individuals who have not completed these requirements will be prohibited from working with animals;
• In March, experts from University Laboratory Animal Resources, the Office of Responsible Research Practices and the IACUC inspected each of the 309 locations on campus where animals are housed or used. The inspection teams
focused on whether each lab was in compliance with current regulations and mandated corrective actions when problems were found. In the future, similar inspections will take place twice annually. While some corrective actions were necessary, at present 98 percent of the university’s animal laboratories are fully compliant with AAALAC standards. Corrective actions are largely associated with proper ventilation;

- In July of 2005, the IACUC was strengthened with a new chair and since then, substantive changes have been enacted in its ongoing procedures. Among them is the requirement that no protocols will be approved unless all researchers on the protocol have completed the appropriate training and are registered in the health and safety database. Protocols must also have been approved by other appropriate university oversight committees before they will be reviewed or approved by the IACUC.

“We believe that these and other measures will improve our overall animal research program, as well as methodically address all concerns voiced by the AAALAC accreditation team,” McGrath said.

“We value the peer advice of the AAALAC group. While these types of process improvements is challenging for a research institution as large and complex as Ohio State, we are committed to maintaining a program that meets – if not exceeds – all existing requirements and guidelines for animal care and use. Utilizing these best practices, will allow our faculty to continue to execute the type of quality research that we should expect from Ohio State University.”

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Use of research animals up at OSU

By Laura Arensfield

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The number of animals used in research at Ohio State University has significantly increased in the past seven years, according to data provided by the university.

The largest increases are in the numbers of mice, fish and poultry. The numbers of dogs, cats, rabbits, farm animals and primates have decreased.

After a California-based animal-rights group recently raised questions about Ohio State’s purchase of 15 dogs last year for heart research, The Dispatch requested additional data on research animals.

The data show that OSU researchers used nearly 15 times as many animals in 2014 as they did in 2008. At the same time, though, the numbers of cats, dogs, primates and rabbits dropped by nearly 90 percent.

During the same period nationwide, the numbers of animals used in research dropped by about 17 percent, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which regulates animal testing in laboratories.

In all, OSU researchers used nearly 1.4 million animals in 2014. About 1.2 million of those were fish; about 200,000 were mice, rats and other rodents; and the rest were farm animals, birds, reptiles, dogs, cats, rabbits and primates.

Fish and mice primarily are used in early-stage research, said Janet Weisenberger, senior associate vice president of research at Ohio State. “You need to think about the process that a new drug or a new treatment has to go through before it can be used for humans.

“We have to understand the genetic mechanisms that both cause disease and that help the body to come back against disease, and a lot of that initial work is done in mice and in fish.”

Weisenberger said that, because of the ethics involved, Ohio State tries to limit the studies its researchers conduct on primates. Still, she feels certain that animal testing is the right thing to do.

People have been debating the ethics and morality of experimenting on animals for hundreds of years. It’s a divisive, thorny issue.

On one hand, animal experiments have led to some of the most-important medical breakthroughs, including the polio vaccine that was tested on monkeys, and insulin shots that came about because of research on fish and dogs. Leprosy treatments resulted from experiments on horses.

On the other hand, some people object to the pain some animals must endure and the fact that animals are often killed after a study is completed or as part of the research.

“We still haven’t answered this question of why it would be ethical to inflict significant pain and suffering on animals who can’t provide consent,” said Dr. Hope Ferdowsian, a professor of medicine at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and an animal-rights advocate.

Some say researchers should use computer models to run experiments. Others argue that drugs that work in animals often don’t work in humans.
OSU researchers who want to experiment on animals submit justification to an internal-review committee, which meets publicly once a month.

"We’re all looking forward to the day when modeling and simulation and other techniques get to the point where they can totally replace testing in animals," Weisenberger said.

"In the meantime, the breakthroughs that need to happen in order to save lives and support human health and increase the health of people around the world, (animal tests) need to happen now."

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