

SEAR ACTION

South East Animal Rights - September 2007 Newsletter 32

www.se-ar.org.uk info@se-ar.org.uk 07810 024098
additional new contact number - 07948036746

Sign petition
to replace EU
animal tests



www.endeuanimaltests.org/



Please come to our next meeting

Tuesday 2nd Oct

Ruskin House, Croydon
23 Coombe Road, CR0 1BD

7.30pm

Guest from EMP
(Europeans for Medical Progress)

Vivisection news

Study casts doubt on efficacy
of chimpanzee research

Chimpanzee Research: An Examination of Its Contribution to Biomedical Knowledge and Efficacy in Combating Human Diseases evaluated claims of the necessity of chimpanzee experimentation by assessing the importance of such research to published scientific papers reporting data obtained from it, and if cited, the contribution that research made to human clinical progress and practice.

Between 1995 and 2004 inclusive, 749 studies involving captive chimpanzees were published; 95 were randomly selected and reviewed to determine how often they were cited by subsequent papers. Of this sample, 49.5% had not been cited at all by other scientific papers. A further 35.8% were cited only by papers that did not describe well-developed prophylactic, diagnostic or therapeutic methods for combating human diseases. Only 14.7% of the random sample of chimpanzee studies were cited - specifically, 14 papers were cited by 27 subsequent papers. An in-depth analysis of these studies revealed that the chimpanzee experiments had contributed precious little, if anything at all, to the outcome of those papers reporting advances in human clinical practice.

For example, the chimpanzee studies had been conducted concurrently to human studies or to "confirm" previous human investigations; the results from them conflicted with results in other non-human primates or in human trials; the cited chimpanzee studies were peripheral to the human clinical study and/or cited purely as points of information; they illustrated historical findings with no direct relevance to current practice; or, the chimpanzee findings were purely speculative in nature.

Rather, the methods in those 27 papers that were pivotal to the development of human prophylactic, diagnostic or therapeutic methods included: in vitro studies, human clinical and epidemiological studies, molecular assays and methods, and genomic studies.



Justice for stall activists!

TWO animal rights activists scored a victory for 'freedom of speech' when a court overturned their criminal convictions for holding a peaceful animal rights awareness stand in a Barnet street. They had been prosecuted in June for obstructing a public highway despite, they said, having made every effort to ensure their stand was legal and packing it away when asked.

Human rights organisation Liberty represented them claiming it was an affront to their freedom of speech and blaming the fiasco on over-zealous policing.

"Freedom of speech is a cornerstone of our democracy which must be protected. "Over-zealous policing suppressed this peaceful activism - it is clear these individuals were not blocking the pavement or otherwise disturbing the peace. "Hopefully, lessons have been learned." said Libertys representative

They set up the stall to seek public support for the Animal Aid campaign against the use of primates for scientific research. One said "we were confronted by three police officers. They asked us if we had permits and we told them we didn't need permits, but they told us to pack up our stuff and move on. "We did what they told us and they took our names and addresses. We weren't very happy because we had made sure we weren't doing anything wrong and we'd made sure we weren't getting in anyone's way. It was ridiculous."

Months later the pair received summonses to attend court. They were convicted in June of obstructing a public highway. They received an absolute discharge, allowing them to walk away without punishment, but appealed to clear their names.

Overturning their conviction, Judge David Mole QC said: "In granting an absolute discharge, the magistrates no doubt felt that this was a prosecution through which no useful purpose was served, and we share that view."

www.animalaid.org.uk

Hans Ruesch Dies at 94



Hans Ruesch, Swiss racing driver, best-selling author and pioneer of the anti-vivisection movement, who has died of cancer in Lugano, aged 94, was also the last surviving grand prix winner of the interwar "golden age" of motor racing. Two of his novels were made into Hollywood films, and his

subsequent publications helped give impetus to the fledgling campaign for animal rights.

In later life his attention turned to the campaign against vivisection, his own interest having been latent since the death in infancy of his brother Konrad, apparently after being given a drug which had been cleared after tests on animals. The sight of a kitten rescued after being mutilated in a laboratory is said to have prompted Ruesch's decision to found the Centre for Scientific Information on Vivisection in 1974 and, two years later, to write *Imperatrice Nuda*, published in translation as *Slaughter of the Innocent* and credited with giving impetus to a growing movement. It was followed by other volumes and, in 1979, by visits to anti-vivisection demonstrations in Oxford and Cambridge. He was also to become the honorary president of the International League of Doctors against Vivisection.

Famous pigeons starve

Draconian bye-law extended to further restrict civil liberties

Many DECADES ago the London Council LICENSED & PERMITTED the sale of food-stuffs for the feeding of pigeons in Trafalgar Square, MILLIONS of people, including visitors & tourists from all over the world have enjoyed feeding the 'FAMOUS PIGEONS'. NOW A BYE-LAW TAKES AWAY YOUR CIVIL RIGHT,... FOR THE PIGEONS IT WILL BE A SLOW AGONISING DEATH BY STARVATION, (ACCORDING TO LEADING BIRD EXPERTS)!! FOR ALL THOSE YEARS FEEDING THE 'FAMOUS PIGEONS' IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE COUNCIL AND NOBODY SEEMED TO COMPLAIN OR OBJECT ON ANY GROUNDS!

Please contact the following people and politely ask why they felt it necessary to effect such measures against the birds and the public.

WESTMINSTER COUNCILLOR ALAN BRADLEY Cabinet Member for Street Environment, appeared on London television and BBC London condemning the birds expressing his approval for the Bye-Law. abradley@westminster.gov.uk

HAZEL BLEARS MP Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), she would have made the final decision to pass the new law. blearsh@parliament.uk

KEN LIVINGSTONE'S DRACONIAN CRUEL ANTI-PIGEON BYE-LAW. He originally set the ball rolling by introducing a feeding ban on main Trafalgar Square in 2002, if you feel London needs a more caring compassionate Mayor, then DON'T VOTE for him at next years election! he cannot be elected without votes! mayor@london.gov.uk

Remember some of Ken's controversial (alleged) recent history:

- Wasting hard earned London taxpayers money.
- Fracas with photographer.
- Upsetting the Jewish community.
- Unwanted Congestion charges affecting visitors & small businesses.
- 'BLOODSPORT' on Trafalgar Square, the use of a BIRD OF PREY (HAWK), ripping pigeons to pieces in front of children!



Wickham - over policing

Wickham has been the focus of animal rights protests and raids for many years. Recently Keith Mann was imprisoned after breaking into the lab to liberate hundreds of mice, exposing Wickham's involvement with the testing of Botox on animals, despite the alleged ban on cosmetic testing. Local activists are fighting plans by Wickham to expand onto another site.

A good turn out at Saturdays demo with the inevitable over zealous policing. The march started in the car park, went through the town to the square Mel Broughton and Andre Menache spoke. Protestors then marched to the gates of the Lab where many decided to sit in the road, they were subsequently removed and man handled by police, one person was arrested but was later released without charge. The police continued to push people back to the Town Square and the march then resumed back to the car park. The whole demo was extremely over policed and protestors were subjected to continuous filming through out the entire demo. Many of the protestors were followed by police back to their destinations.

Please consider a monthly donation towards our running costs, apart from leaflets, speaker expenses & transport
Newsletter £25 • Postage £30 • Room hire £30 • Food £10 • phones £10 • photocopies £5

SEAR tel: 07810 024098

DIARY

FOR FULL NATIONWIDE LISTINGS
VISIT WWW.VEGGIES.ORG.UK

September

28-30th

Tues 2nd OCT

Tues 16th

UK Animal Rights Gathering, Kent - www.veggies.org.uk/event.php?ref=1116

SEAR Meeting - 7.30pm, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon

Anti-McDonalds Day, Global day of action to mark World Food Day. Everywhere, Adopt-YOUR-Store.

Pigeon Action Group: rota feeding, campaigning & rescue: 07810 024098

Fur campaigns: London: Pickets every week at London fur shops. 07951 274371 / 07796 774200 / 0845 845 4775
McDonalds demonstrations are held most Thursdays at McDonalds, 25-27 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1, from 6pm.
The nearest tube is Piccadilly Circus. Contact numbers on the evening - 07960 036044.

Every Thursday, outside the proposed Oxford University animal torture centre, South Parks Road, Oxford.
Transport from London - to book reply to info@speakcampaigns.org.uk or contact 07899 775493.

your ongoing support is greatly appreciated - please make cheques payable to 'SEAR' send to BM SEAR, London, WC1N 3XX or you can now donate via paypal on our website - and a big thank you to all those who have donated!