



IAAPEA

International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals

SAVING THE ANIMALS IN EASTERN EUROPE

by Brian Gunn
IAAPEA Secretary General

As supporters of the IAAPEA will know, during recent years the Association has been concentrating on trying to influence matters in Eastern European countries where previously there was no, or negligible activity on behalf of animals in laboratories.

March 30th 2002 was an historic day in Belarus (part of the old Soviet Union) when over 2,000 people attended the country's first ever 'Animal Day of Action'.

The event was the inspiration of Natalia Spiridonova, one of Eastern Europe's leading animal campaigners. Natalia is a graduate of the Medical University and a dynamic advocate for animals. Natalia and her group



Natalia Spiridonova 'Animal Friends'

Photograph by Brian Gunn / IAAPEA ©

'Animal Friends' - an organization mostly of young people - had invited me to Belarus to speak at the Animal Day of Action and to meet other Animal Organizations. I advised and helped them plan future campaigns and also visited animal Research Laboratories and the Belarus Parliament.

The Animal Day of Action was held at the Culture Business Centre in Vitebsk. School children had been invited to take part in animal painting and photo competitions and hundreds of animal pictures were on display in the Centre. During an entertaining concert, I had the pleasure of presenting prizes to the winners of the competitions.

PRESS CONFERENCES

A Press Conference proceeded the Animal Day of Action. This was attended by journalists from the Country's leading newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations. With the invaluable help of my Interpreter Ludmilla Luniouva, I was interviewed on a number of radio and television programmes.

My visit to Belarus generated such interest, that a second Press Conference had to be held later in the week.





Animal paintings by the children of Belarus

HUMANE RESEARCH COMPETITION

While in Belarus I launched a new IAAPEA competition for Humane Research.

The award will be known as the 'Colin Smith Prize for Humane Research'. Colin, a very dear colleague of mine for over 30 years, died suddenly last year of pneumonia. His dedication and tireless work on behalf of the IAAPEA was an inspiration to us all.

We will of course, keep you informed on the progress of this Humane Research Competition, which we hope will result in a reduction in the number of animal experiments performed in Eastern Europe.

BELARUSIAN STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

This is the largest educational establishment in Belarus with 18 scientific research laboratories, 5,000 students and 700 professors and lecturers.

I had the pleasure of meeting the First Vice Rector Professor Sergei Denisov and also Professor Tatjana Morozkina. These leading Professors have worked closely with the IAAPEA for many years and as a result, countless laboratory animals have been saved from experimentation.

The IAAPEA have awarded several grants to the Medical University to sponsor Humane Research and to purchase much needed equipment. It is very encouraging to see that the IAAPEA are saving the lives and suffering of animals here which would otherwise have been used for painful experiments.

STATE ACADEMY

The Vitebsk State Academy of Veterinary Medicine has over 3,000 students. The Academy Rector, A. Yutussevich, had organized a meeting where I addressed 70 of the Faculty's Head's. The response to my talk here was very positive.

GOMEL MEDICAL INSTITUTE

Over 1,500 students study at the Gomel State Medical Institute and a constructive meeting was held with the Institute's Rector, Professor Zhavaranak.

AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

A number of farm animals are used in Belarus in painful agricultural experiments. A meeting was held at the Ministry of Agriculture with the Deputy Chief State Veterinary Inspector. Progress here was slow and disappointing.

NATIONAL LIPID CENTRE

I visited the tissue culture laboratory at the National Lipid Centre of Metabolic Therapy. Some pioneering humane research work was being conducted here under the leadership of Edward Dotsenko, this is already saving the lives of laboratory animals.

KILLING CENTRE

At the Animal Killing Centre in Gomel, over 5,000 stray dogs are destroyed every year with electric shocks. We found the dogs which had been electrocuted were being kept in the same small room as the dogs that were still alive!

When I tried to take photographs of both dead and alive dogs, the discussion became heated and we were forcibly removed from the premises.



The Animal Day of Action was reported by journalists from the Country's leading newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations.



PARLIAMENT

At the present time there is no animal welfare legislation at all in Belarus.

I attended the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus and held positive discussions with members of the House of Representatives.

An historic meeting was also held with the Minister of Health who agreed to support the IAAPEA competition for Humane Research in Belarus.

As a result of my visit the IAAPEA have been asked to help draft the first animal welfare legislation in Belarus.

IAAPEA - FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Although the IAAPEA made a significant impact during our visit to Belarus, it is vital that the animal work continues long after we have returned home.

The IAAPEA is financially supporting local groups and organizations in Eastern Europe. As a result of our financial support, the animal groups are now able to produce their own leaflets and campaign material, etc.

The IAAPEA is in a unique position to aid the desperate plight of laboratory animals in Eastern Europe. We are already making significant progress in a part of the world where previously there was little organized opposition to animal experiments.



NEW CIGARETTE ANIMAL RESEARCH

During the 1950s, scientist Ernst L. Wynder painted the backs of laboratory mice with tar from Lucky Strike cigarettes, which resulted in disfiguring tumours.

Now, U.S. cigarette manufacturer Vector Group Ltd is using a reprise of that same test in an effort to show that its new Omni cigarette which is specially treated to reduce levels of some carcinogens, is potentially less hazardous than Marlboro, a brand made by Philip Morris companies. Sixty-eight percent of mice painted with tar from Marlboros developed cancer, while just 20% painted with tar from Omni did.

Tobacco companies are jockeying for advantage as they race to get new cigarettes on to the market.

Vector, parent of discount cigarette manufacturer Liggett Group, is eager to release the test results, especially because Omni's sales so far have lagged behind those of other brands, despite a \$25 million U.S. ad campaign.

Vector says it plans to conduct more tests.

MONKEY RESEARCH

Researchers at Arizona State University report that in experiments with monkeys, the animals could move an object around a computer screen in 3D simply by imagining it.

The monkeys had electrodes which were linked to a computer put in their brains. By picking up the activity of neurons - brain cells - in the motor cortex part of the monkeys brain, the computer caused a cursor to move on screen.

The monkeys could make the cursor go where they wanted, by moving their arms, but then their arms were restrained. At first they pushed against the restraints, but after several days learned that they could move the cursor simply by using their imagination with almost as much accuracy and speed.



REMOTE CONTROL RAT !

You could not make it up, but science has invented a remote-controlled rat.

Scientists can now remotely direct the movements of rats by using implanted electrodes to control their behaviour - in effect, transforming a living animal into a robot.

Physiologists have implanted tiny stimulating electrodes into the brains of five rats, and then used an ordinary laptop computer to guide them around mazes and over obstacles - like children operating radio cars.

'It's really just conditioning behaviour' said John Chapin, a physiologist at the State University of New York's Downstate Medical Center. 'But it's different in that you can do it all with remote control', he added. 'In theory, you could guide the animal anywhere.'

The military potential of this project has won financing from America's military research arm DARPA.

The animals could be used as the 'rat on the floor' equivalent to the 'fly on the wall', therefore providing the ability to eavesdrop on sensitive conversations taking place behind closed doors.

The Chapin team implanted three electrodes in the rats' brains. One was placed in a 'generic' pleasure centre which records satisfaction whenever needs - food, water or warmth - were satisfied. The others were implanted to stimulate the whiskers on either side of the rat's nose.

By triggering one of the whisker implants and stimulating the reward centre, the researchers were able to make the rat turn in either direction or move forward.

After up to 10 days of training, the rat can navigate practically any landscape, wearing a receiver and a power pack on its back and being steered by a technician issuing commands from a laptop up to 1,650 feet (500 metres) away, Chapin said.

The rat thus becomes a living robot, controlled remotely by a human handler, but able to go anywhere a rat can go.

GERM WARFARE

Monkeys Die of Smallpox

In an experiment unfolding under tight security, six rust and silver monkeys grew listless, refused to eat, and broke out in blisters. Four have become sick, and two have died - from smallpox.

On June 18, 2002, a team of space-suited scientists passed through steel doors with key cards and entered an air-locked laboratory - the 'Hot Suite' - at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Their mission: to infect animals with an extinct disease - smallpox.

Historically, smallpox killed millions of people and left millions more scarred or blind. But by 1980, the World Health Organization had eradicated it. Now, just two sanctioned repositories of frozen virus exist, one in Atlanta and the other in Russia.

The current monkey experiment is headed by Peter Jahrling, a 56-year-old microbiologist and senior research scientist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Maryland. But Dr. Jahrling's role in this quest has spawned a rancorous debate.

D.A. Henderson, Senior Scientific Adviser on Public Health Preparedness to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, sharply questions the validity of Dr. Jahrling's animal model. As leader of the WHO's successful smallpox campaign, Dr. Henderson doubts doctors will ever find a drug to treat the disease once its lesions appear. He favours finding a drug to treat reactions to the vaccine.

Abhorrent Experiment

Another WHO veteran, labels the project 'an abhorrent experiment by government idiots'. Alfred Sommer, Dean of the Public Health School at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, warns that such work will spark a bioweapons arms race by countries such as Iraq or North Korea. The way to fight smallpox isn't by injecting monkeys, he says, but by destroying the stockpiles of virus. WHO and the Bush Administration, this past spring agreed to preserve the virus until new drugs are developed. Still, Dr. Sommer says 18 of 28 U.S Public Health School Deans signed his petition calling for destruction.

At 10 am on June 18, 2002, members of Dr. Jahrling's team were dressed in green surgical scrubs and zipped into biohazard suits with attached hoods, booties and gloves. They taped on outer gloves and boots for security. Onto this impermeable skin, they hooked coiled orange hoses of filter air that inflate the suits like the Michelin man. Then, the bulky figures entered Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory, one of two top-level containment facilities for deadly viruses.



A Macaque monkey similar to the primates used in the germ warfare experiments.

Super Lethal Virus

Dr. Jahrling has courted controversy by giving monkeys up to one million times the dose that is infectious to humans and by exposing them in a different way. People once contracted smallpox by inhaling the virus, much as one might catch a cold. But macaques, the monkeys in this experiment, don't get smallpox in nature. Previous aerosol exposures produced only a mild non-lethal rash. To try to infect monkeys with lethal smallpox Dr. Jahrling, last year double-dosed them with aerosol plus an intravenous virus, using a super-virulent strain - India I - the strain of choice of former Soviet germ warriors.

'By day four, they checked out', says Dr. Jahrling. Death came so swiftly that the blisters barely budded, leading critics to charge that the monkeys died, not from smallpox but from blood poisoning. So this time, Dr. Jahrling employed a less-hot virus called the Harper strain. Forgoing 'that hellacious fog' he used only an intravenous infusion. His aim: to slow the disease down to something resembling the 10 to 14-day course of human smallpox.

To maintain virulence, he still set the dose at a staggering 100 million to one billion infectious units of the virus, which is nearly 100% lethal.

Earlier this year Indian scientist Kalyan Banerjee stated that animal research is a camouflage for making smallpox weapons.



VICTIMS OF SCIENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE

IAAPEA SECRETARY GENERAL BRIAN GUNN RECENTLY WITNESSED AND PHOTOGRAPHED SOME HORRIFIC EXPERIMENTS ON DOGS IN EASTERN EUROPEAN LABORATORIES. WE FELT THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TOO HORRIFIC TO BE PUBLISHED IN INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL ACTION.

Photographs by Brian Gunn / IAAPEA ©



Fear...
Cowering in fear at the back of its cage.
Awaiting further painful experiments.



Hysterical
This dog had been repeatedly experimented on,
and was in an hysterical and uncontrollable
state.



Torture Frame
A frame used to imprison horses while they are
being vivisected



Blinded...
Note the mother hamster's left eye. The animal
has been deliberately blinded.



EURO BAN ON COSMETIC TESTS

The IAAPEA have actively campaigned throughout Europe for many years to outlaw the testing of cosmetics and beauty products on live animals.

Since 1998 Britain has outlawed cosmetic experiments on live animals, but it still imports thousands of beauty products which have been tested on animals elsewhere.

As a result of constant lobbying throughout Europe, European MP's have now voted to ban the sale of new cosmetics tested on animals. If endorsed by the European Union Government Ministers, the ban will come into force in 2005.

In a series of votes in the European Parliament, MEPs put themselves on a collision course with EU governments by backing a strict package of animal welfare measures which would cover the development of new cosmetics.

Opposition is expected to be particularly vehement from France which does the most animal testing. But Britain is among the nations which oppose the ban of cosmetics tested outside the EU on the basis that it could breach world trading rules.

WHAT MEPS HAVE VOTED FOR:

Total ban on testing cosmetics on animals in the EU by December 2004.

An immediate ban of testing on animals in the EU of ingredients where alternative test methods have been validated and on animal testing for finished products.

A ban on the sale within the EU of all cosmetic products tested anywhere in the world, to stop firms exporting their testing to countries outside Europe. This would work in two stages:

1. The industry would have to find an alternative to 11 of the 14 animal tests currently used, within five years of the legislation being adopted. These tests could be banned in 2008.

2. Cosmetic firms would have a further five years to replace three other tests which are judged more difficult to perform without using animals.

An immediate ban on selling products in the EU which contain ingredients tested on animals, where alternative test methods have been validated.



Photographs by Brian Gunn / IAAPEA ©





NAKED CHICKEN

Science seems to be determined to meddle with animal development and scientists have now developed a monster of an animal.

The featherless fowl has been developed by scientists in Israel. They crossed a small, bare-skinned bird with a regular broiler chicken to produce a hybrid designed especially for hot climates.

Avigdor Cahaner, the geneticist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who created the bald cross breed, has already produced several dozen of the bright red birds.

He said: 'Feathers are a waste. The chickens are using feed to produce something that has to be dumped and the farmers have to waste electricity to overcome the fact.'

The IAAPEA believes it is totally immoral to genetically engineer a chicken. This outrageous research has been performed just to increase the profits of the farming industry.



A dedicated centre should be set up to examine alternatives to the use of animals in drug and chemical experiments.

It recommends the setting up of a centre modelled on the US Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, based at the John Hopkins University in Baltimore. The centre would co-ordinate the experiments by companies and academic institutions and help to prevent duplication and the unnecessary use of animals. It would also aim to promote alternatives, such as the use of invitro cell culture research and computer modelling.

Although there is much to welcome in the report, the IAAPEA urges the government to increase now the £280,000 of its annual funding to the Animal Procedures Committee.

The House of Lords report said the alternative centre needs funding of between £2M and £10M.

Without an increase in government funding, the IAAPEA believes that the much needed dedicated alternative centre will not even get off the ground.

CATALOGUES OF CRUELTY

GREAT BRITAIN

The number of scientific procedures on living animals in Great Britain during 2001 was 2,622,442, a small fall of 92,284. It was disturbing to note that the use of dogs and primates rose in 2001.



Although there has been a downward trend in the annual number of experiments or scientific procedures since 1976, this trend has levelled out in recent years. This is mainly due to the increased use of genetically modified animals, which is likely to continue. Following the publication of figures, IAAPEA Secretary General, Brian Gunn, was interviewed on a number of radio stations.

CANADA

The Canadian Council for Animal Care (CCAC) has published figures relating to the use of laboratory animals in 1999. During that year, 1,746,606 animals were involved in research, testing and education, a figure very close to that for 1998 (1,765,973).



In 1999, 1131 non-human primates were used, representing an increase of 256 over the figure for 1998.

NEW ZEALAND

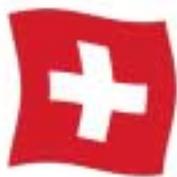
Both the total number of animals used in experiments in New Zealand, and the number subjected to 'severe suffering' or 'very severe suffering' increased significantly in 2000.



The total number of animals used in experiments in New Zealand has risen to just over 3 million.

SWITZERLAND

According to published figures, 423,127 animals were involved in research in Switzerland during 2000, a reduction of 5% from the previous year.



GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

The IAAPEA continues to co-operate and work closely with national and international animal organizations. A lone voice is ineffective, but a whole choir is taken seriously.

The IAAPEA have also joined the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

At a recent conference in London we had the opportunity to meet animal welfare representatives from the Czech Republic, India, Italy, Cyprus, Portugal, Serbia, Romania, Spain, Croatia and Macedonia.

Campaign meetings have also been held with two of our member societies in America - The American Anti-Vivisection Society and The American Fund for Alternatives to Animals in Research.



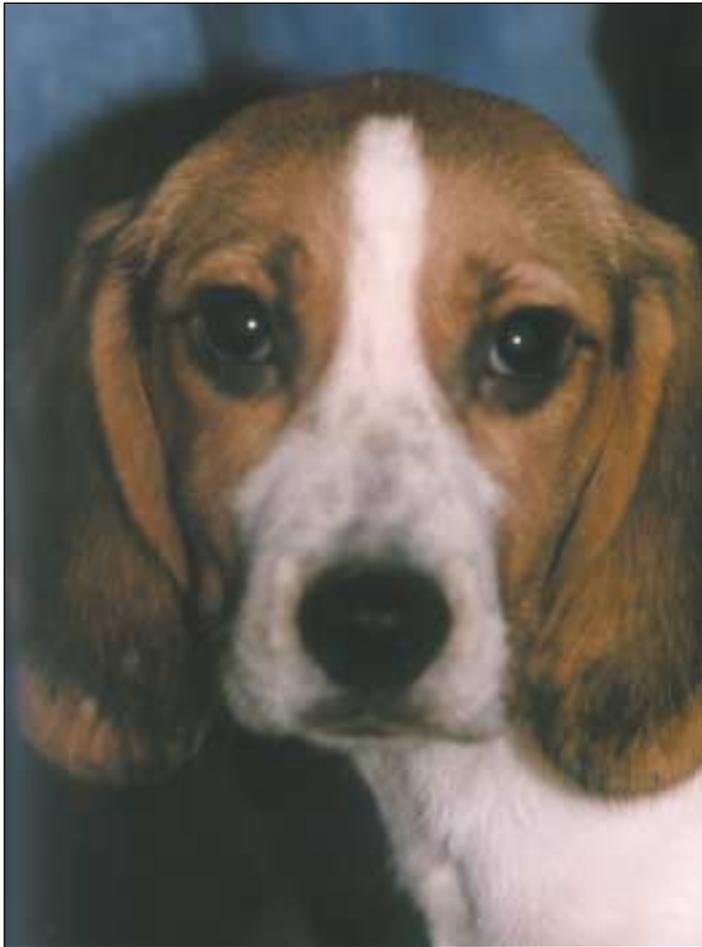
UNITED NATIONS

IAAPEA President, Ingrid Persson, campaigning for laboratory animals at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals is the only organization concerned solely with laboratory animals which has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The IAAPEA is lobbying UNESCO to set up an independent commission of enquiry into the validity of animal tests and the potential of alternative techniques.





Photograph by Brian Gunn / IAAPEA ©

IAAPEA POLICY

Cruelty Knows No Frontiers

The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals opposes all experiments and procedures performed on laboratory animals.

Vivisection is fundamentally a moral issue. It is cowardly, inhumane and utterly immoral to inflict pain and suffering on animals.

The IAAPEA plays a constructive and positive role in medical research by sponsoring and promoting the development of Humane Research.

The Association realizes regretfully that animal experiments will not be ended overnight. We therefore have a practical step by step policy towards reform, one aimed at ending all animal experiments as quickly as possible.

The IAAPEA are not campaigning for larger laboratory cages but empty cages.

Brian Gunn

Secretary General

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The IAAPEA has Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.



The Association depends entirely on voluntary donations and desperately needs your help to combat laboratory cruelty and to promote a more reliable approach to medical research.

The Editor and Executive Committee do not necessarily agree with all views expressed by contributors.



WHO CARES ...



ABOUT ... DOGS IN RUSSIA ...

RABBITS IN MEXICO ...

CATS IN JAPAN ...



WE DO !

On behalf of every little face behind every set of bars in every laboratory cage, the International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals cares passionately about animals all over the world who are used for painful laboratory experiments.

Your legacy could help us end this cruel abuse on animals.

It is of the utmost importance that those intending to benefit the Association should state in their Will the Associations full name and address. Failure to use the correct title may lead to costly litigation and the loss of the whole or part of the legacy.

We earnestly ask all testators to use the following form of bequest.

I give the sum of free of tax to the -

***International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals,
PO Box 14, Hayling Island, Hampshire, PO11 9BF England***

and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being thereof shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors.



WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN SAVE THE ANIMALS

ONLY YOU CAN PROVIDE THE VITAL FUNDS

THANK YOU FOR CARING !