The 4th R: Rehoming/Retirement/Release

OLAW Online Seminar
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THE 4TH R- REHOMING/RETIREMENT/RELEASE

OPTIONS FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH SUBJECTS BEYOND EUTHANASIA

JUNE 13, 2019

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OUTLINE

- Current Events
- History
- Rehoming (aka Adoption)
- Retirement
- Release
- References
Bill ensuring release of research dogs, cats after testing passes in RI

By: Melanie DaSilva | Sarah Doiron

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (WPRO) -- Rhode Island lawmakers have approved a bill that will release research cats and dogs after testing is complete.
MANDATORY ADOPTION BILLS

Courtesy NABR website (www.nabr.org)
Must take into consideration all applicable federal regulations and state and local laws related to the transfer of animal ownership.

The research institution's Attending Veterinarian (AV) must be involved with the development and oversight of the program. The involvement of the IACUC or another appropriate committee, is encouraged.

Each adoption must require approval of the AV or designee, and the AV or designee must have the discretion and authority to deny adoption requests.

Each potential adoption must include expert veterinary guidance. The animal's suitability for adoption as a companion animal should be based upon the animal's species, health status, and behavior.
When appropriate for the animal's health and welfare, the institution should vaccinate and spay/neuter animals prior to adoption.

Adopters should be educated about the animal's health status and should be provided with a written record of the animal's health history upon transfer.

Adopters should be willing and able to accept legal and financial responsibility, in writing, for the life-long care of the animal, including veterinary care.

Adoption programs that collaborate with third parties (e.g., shelters) should consider whether the third party's adoption program is consistent with the institution's mission and values.
US government rethinks how to retire research chimps

A new working group will develop guidelines for determining whether moving the primates to sanctuaries is harmful to their health.

How to Decide Whether Ailing Chimps Get Moved to a Sanctuary

Sandy was a lab chimp, now retired at Chimp Haven in Keithville, La. The N.I.H. is deciding whether old, ill chimps formerly used in research should be moved to sanctuaries like Chimp Haven, or retire in place.
None of these concepts are new…
- Earliest reference to adoption (in literature) 1996
- Article in 2018 states Johns Hopkins earliest adoption dates to 1983 (36 years ago!)
- Retirement of laboratory primates – earliest reference (in literature) 1996
- Primate sanctuaries – two phases of growth:
  - 1970 – 1990s: mostly pets or exotic trade
  - 2000s: increased interest from laboratory animal facilities
JUNGLE FRIENDS PRIMATE SANCTUARY STARTED ACCEPTING MONKEYS FROM RESEARCH LABS IN 2004
(total of pet and lab monkeys per year)
GUIDING PRINCIPLE – INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT
(IT TAKES A VILLAGE…)

- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
- Office of General Counsel
- Communications / public relations
- Research administration
- Animal caretakers
- Veterinarians
- Veterinary technicians
- Facility managers
- Environmental health and safety
GUIDING PRINCIPLE – HAVE A PLAN

- Formal written policy
  - Approved by the IACUC
  - Approved by General Counsel
- Screening process
  - Prospective adoptive families
  - Retirement sanctuaries
- Recognize that sometimes things don’t always go as expected…. 
The animal must be in good health and of acceptable behavior.

The animal must not have been administered any drugs other than FDA-approved human or veterinary drugs or food supplements or pharmaceutically compounded veterinary drugs.

Animals which have been exposed to infectious agents are not eligible for adoption.
ADOPTION – ANIMAL CRITERIA (CONTINUED)

- Transgenic or immune-suppressed animals cannot be adopted.
- Animals must be adopted as personal or family pets only and may not be sold.
- Animals must not be used for food (human or animal consumption).
- The adopter is responsible for any future medical care / support as may be required.
SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

Companion

- Compatibility
  - Other pets in household
  - Children
- Long term care
  - Veterinarian
  - Vaccination/deworming
SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

Agricultural

- Intended purpose
- Local zoning ordinances
- Understanding of “long-term” maintenance
  - Hoof/tusk/horn maintenance
  - Vaccination/deworming
  - Veterinary care and plan
ADOPTION – APPLICANT SCREENING

- Interest level / experience with species
- Type of residence (own vs. rent; apt. vs. home; etc.)
- Indoor/outdoor enclosure(s)
- Plans for leaving animal during work day
- Other pets in the house
- Plan for veterinary care
ADMISSION – ANIMAL PREPARATION

- Facilitate visit with prospective adoptive owner +/- family
- Spay or neuter
- Ensure vaccinations/deworming are appropriate and current
- Complete any required paperwork at institutional, local, & state level, may include USDA transport sheet
- Confirm transport plans *(in advance)*
ADOPTION – FAILURE

- Have a plan in place
- Interview the owner to understand the nature of the failure (prevent repeat failures)
- Don’t be afraid to try again!
- Be sure you set realistic expectations with prospective owners
  - House training
  - Other pets
  - Household items (large screen TVs, carpeting, trash cans, etc.)
“The AVMA supports the adoption of healthy, post-study, research and teaching animals into long-term, private homes as companion animals through the use of adoption programs developed and managed by research institutions.”
“The American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) fully supports the concept of adoption of healthy, post-study, research animals into long-term, caring private homes or farms that can provide appropriate and humane living conditions for these animals as pets.”
ADOPTION – REGULATORY PERSPECTIVE

“The PHS Policy, the Guide, and the Animal Welfare Act are silent on the issue of private adoption of research animals for pets after a study has been completed and the animals are no longer required. The 9 CFR recordkeeping regulations and official policies offer institutions the option of developing and implementing an adoption policy. OLAW is supportive of the concept of adoption but reminds institutions that NIH grant funds may not be used to support the cost of the program. The PHS will not assume legal or financial responsibility for any adoption program or any results of adoption. The institution should ensure that its policy meets pertinent state and local regulations for transfer of animal ownership and is encouraged to coordinate with local animal shelters.”

From: OLAW FAQ F.11.
Mr. Sniffs
Adopted January, 2009

Aries – 7 years old
Adopted August, 2017
RETIREMENT
BROWN’S RETIREMENT DATA

- Data from 2005 – 2011
  - 8 NHPs retired / 2 PI’s; Avg. colony size = 26 Rhesus
  - Specific sanctuary data not available
    - General trend of retirement to “PI-preferred” sanctuaries
- Data from 2015 – 2017
  - 12 NHPs retired / 5 PI’s; Avg. colony size = 38 Rhesus
  - Retired to 5 different sanctuaries
BROWN’S RETIREMENT PRACTICES

Initially:

- No formalized procedure or policy
- PI-driven retirement
  - Funding
- Director (Attending Vet) reviewed documents
  - Authorized retirement on university’s behalf
- Limited involvement from Office of General Counsel
- Transportation via ground services
“We have confirmed our commitment to make retirement and placement at sanctuaries a viable option for NHPs at Brown University.”
REQUIRES INPUT FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS

- Laboratory and research team
- Veterinarian / animal care
- Office of General Counsel
- IACUC
- Sanctuary
Lab/PI

Identifies NHP(s) to retire

Sanctuary

Availability? Timeframe?

“Vet” sanctuary

Documents (NDA, Transfer forms, etc.)

Coordinate shipping

Have crate made

Veterinarian

YES. Can send.

OGC reviews & signs docs

Explant & castration

Ship NHP(s) to sanctuary
Shipping crate: ~ $250

Transport: ~ $250 – 1000 (ground) + $ 250 – 500 (air) OR $10,000 (ground)

Sanctuary donation: $8,000 – $10,000/nhp

Vaccinations/deworming: $100

Lab diagnostics: $150

Spay/neuter: $0

Veterinary time: $0

OVERALL COSTS: ~ $10 – 25K
FUNDING SOURCES

- Project budget
- Institutional funds
- Personal or private donations
- Fundraising efforts
PRE-PLANNING: SANCTUARY

- Availability and timing
- Management structure and oversight of the facility (e.g., board of directors, trustees, etc.) including information on finances and how financial resources are allocated and staffing information (# staff, education, training)
- How are NHPs are cared for once they arrive at the facility – acclimation, diet, enrichment, monitoring frequency, health assessments, veterinary care, euthanasia, etc.
- Emergency and disaster planning documents
- Accreditation or regulatory inspection documents
- Position statement on the use of animals in research
- References (including veterinarians)
- Required paperwork (transfer, non-disclosure, etc.)
- Visit (if possible)
The quality and scope of sanctuaries vary
- May or may not be USDA licensed (exhibitor)
- May be accredited through legitimate agencies
- Most are not open to the public
- Most are 501(c)3 non-profits, have a Board of Directors, file 990 forms with IRS

Pseudo-sanctuaries (Seelig and Truitt)
- Closely resemble legitimate sanctuaries
- Often do NOT want sterilization of NHPs
- Many are for-profit
PRE-PLANNING: ANIMAL

- Confirm suitability
  - Pre-existing / chronic health conditions
  - Psychological well-being
- Need for removal of any implants
- Castration (or vasectomy) OR spay (or birth control)
- Vaccinations (tetanus, rabies, measles)
- Deworming
- CBC/Chemistry (+/- UA)
- Serology (Herpes B, SIV, etc.), TB testing
PRE-PLANNING: PAPERWORK

- Health records (history, bloodwork, etc.)
- Transfer agreement
- Nondisclosure agreement
- USDA 7020 form
- Transport paperwork
** If flying be sure to check crate dimensions with airline**

- Typically takes 3 weeks for manufacture
- Must meet USDA AWR § 3.87 – Primary enclosures used to transport nonhuman primates
  - Must be large enough so that each animal has enough space to turn around
  - Sit in an upright, hands down position without its head touching the top of the enclosure
- If flying must meet IATA requirements
- Price per crate for 10 – 15 kg NHP: $150 – 210
- Price to ship crate: $380
TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Ground Transport
- Cost (RI – TX): $8,000 – 10,000
- Duration: 2 days
- Stressful!!!
- Must use USDA registered courier
- Example (RI – OK, 2 NHPs): $9200

Air Transport
- Cost (RI – TX): ~ $250 – 500
- Duration: < 12 hours
- ONLY ONE DOMESTIC CARRIER WILL TRANSPORT NHPs
- Booked as cargo (confirmed 5 days prior to estimated departure)
- Example (RI – OK): $500
ARRIVAL TO SANCTUARY

- Sanctuary calls when NHP arrives
- Personnel may meet courier at airport
- Typically provide updates (photos!!)
- Standard practices
  - Quarantine x 30 days
  - Placement into new enclosure
  - Start of pairing process
SOMETIMES THINGS DON’T GO AS PLANNED...

Meet Dawkins, the newest resident of our Primate Sanctuary! He is doing well and exploring his new home, where he will be able to live a life as close as possible to the wild.

A year after escaping crate at San Antonio airport, Dawkins the macaque 'doing great' at sanctuary

By Fares Sabawi  Updated 12:53 pm CDT, Tuesday, May 21, 2019
“We bring our message of research advocacy and animal welfare full circle by showing compassion for those without a voice, and offering them a continuing life of dignity after research”

Jackie Rivera Clauder, founder Retirement Sanctuary for Laboratory Animals
- Typically applies to traditional field studies
- IACUC approval
- Local/state/federal laws may impact ability to pursue
RELEASE – ANIMAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Impact of tissue collection
- Need for anesthesia
- Need for identification
- Ability to survive/compete
- Implications for other animals/environment
RELEASE – OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Impact on habitat/ecosystem/environment
- Potential to introduce disease
- Potential for human consumption
- Impact on other species
RELEASE – REGULATORY IMPLICATIONS

- Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Endangered/protected species
- Food and Drug Administration
  - When human consumption is a possibility
- Environmental Protection Agency
- State Department of Environmental Management
- State veterinarian
- Local ordinances
“Upon completion of studies, researchers should release field-trapped animals whenever this is practical and allowed under national, state, or local laws and under permit conditions.”
“For our lab having the ability to retire them is very important. We become very attached to them. To see them sunning themselves and living the rest of their lives out is very comforting. I do think it helps to mitigate compassion fatigue. I do not think I would be as comfortable doing what we do if the end result was euthanasia as the norm for NHP's. Also being able to see them and get updates is a really great feeling.”

“Being at a facility that adopts and/or retires research animals impacts me very much. I feel proud to work for an establishment that does not look at these amazing animals as “tools” that once “used” are no longer important. These animals are unwillingly giving up most of their lives to help advance science and deserve our extreme thanks and respect for that.”
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I’d like to thank the following individuals for their dedication to the animals used in research and for their ongoing support of the retirement and adoption processes:

- Animal care staff
- Research staff
- Faculty
- Research administration
- IACUC members and IACUC support staff
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- Sikes R and Animal Care and Use Committee of the American Society of Mammalogists. 2016. 
  Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the use of wild mammals in research and 

- Herpetological Animal Care and Use Committee (HACC) of the American Society of Ichthyologists 
  and Herpetologists. 2004. Guidelines for use of live amphibians and reptiles in field and laboratory 
  research, 2nd ed. 
  6/22/18).
Submit to the chat box in the GoToMeeting control panel
What is your opinion on animals that have received CFA for antibody production to be made available for adoption after study end?
QUESTION 2

Have you ever rehomed goats? Can the ear tag be removed to ensure the animal’s origin is not traceable? Would you require goats being spayed before adoption, if this is not possible would this prevent you from rehoming them?
Submit to the chat box in the GoToMeeting control panel
Topic TBD

OLAW Online Seminar
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