

## The 4<sup>th</sup> R: Rehoming/Retirement/Release



OLAW Online Seminar  
June 13, 2019

Dr. Lara Helwig, DVM, DACLAM  
Brown University

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## THE 4TH R- REHOMING/RETIREMENT/RELEASE

OPTIONS FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH SUBJECTS BEYOND EUTHANASIA  
JUNE 13, 2019

Lara A. Helwig, D.V.M., DACLAM  
Director, Animal Care and Attending Veterinarian  
Brown University



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## OUTLINE

- Current Events
- History
- Rehoming (aka Adoption)
- Retirement
- Release
- References

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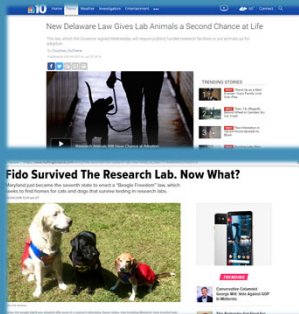
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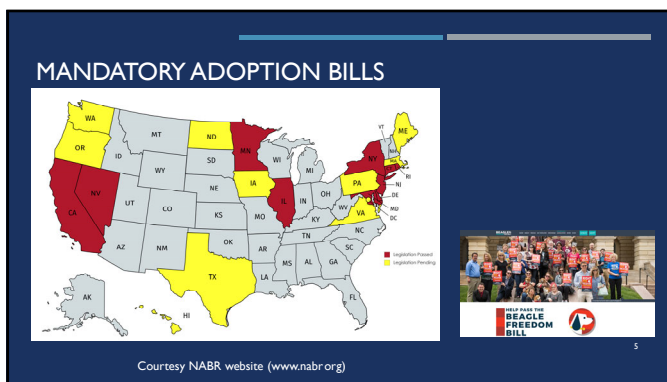
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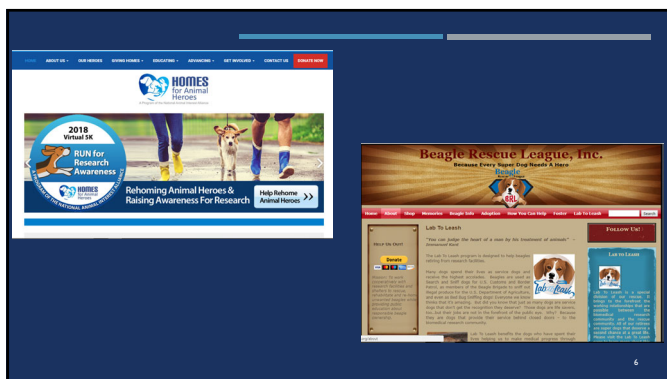
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## AVMA POLICY ON ADOPTION OF RESEARCH DOGS AND CATS

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## HISTORY

- 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

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## 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



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## 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....

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## ADOPTION – ANIMAL CRITERIA

- 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.

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## 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.

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## SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

### Companion

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



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## SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

### Agricultural

- Intended purpose
- Local zoning ordinances
- Understanding of "long-term" maintenance
  - Hoof/tusk/horn maintenance
  - Vaccination/deworming
  - Veterinary care and plan



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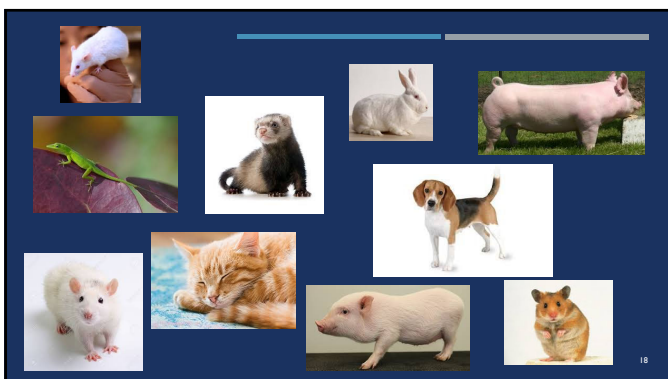
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## ADOPTION – APPLICANT SCREENING

- 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

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## ADOPTION – 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*)

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## 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.)

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“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.

AVMA Policy On Adoption Of Research Dogs And Cats

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“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.

American College Of Laboratory Animal Medicine  
Position Statement On The Adoption Of Research Animals

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## 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.

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Mr. Sniffs  
Adopted January, 2009

Aries – 7 years old  
Adopted August, 2017

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## RETIREMENT



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## 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

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## 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

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## GENERAL PHILOSOPHY



***"We have confirmed our commitment to make retirement and placement at sanctuaries a viable option for NHPs at Brown University."***

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## REQUIRES INPUT FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS

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



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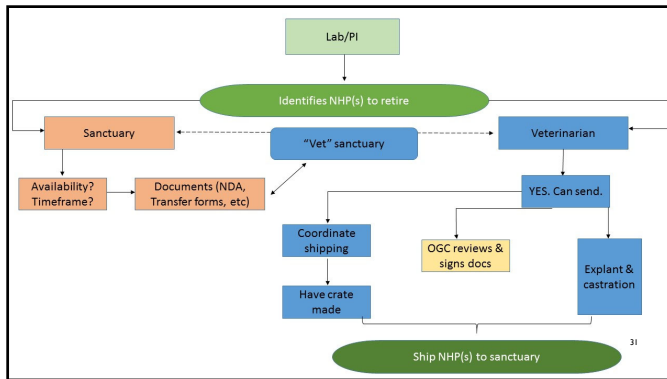
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### PREPLANNING: COSTS

- 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**



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### FUNDING SOURCES

- Project budget
- Institutional funds
- Personal or private donations
- Fundraising efforts

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## 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)

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## SIDE NOTE: SANCTUARIES

- 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

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## 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



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## PRE-PLANNING: PAPERWORK

- Health records (history, bloodwork, etc.)
- Transfer agreement
- Nondisclosure agreement
- USDA 7020 form
- Transport paperwork



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## SHIPPING CRATES

- \*\* 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

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## 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

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## 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



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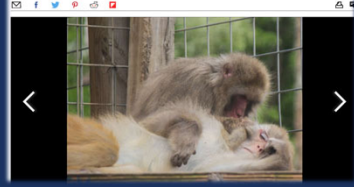
## SOMETIMES THINGS DON'T GO AS PLANNED...

Meet Dawkins, the newest resident of our Primate Sanctuary! He is doing great and enjoying 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**

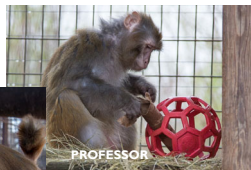
By Anne Kulkarni | Updated 12:55 pm CDT Tuesday, May 22, 2018



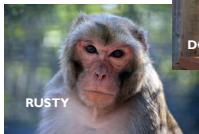
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COSTELLO



PROFESSOR



RUSTY



DONALD AND SCOOTER



PICKLES

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“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

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## RELEASE

- Typically applies to traditional field studies
- IACUC approval
- Local/state/federal laws may impact ability to pursue



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## RELEASE – ANIMAL CONSIDERATIONS

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



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## RELEASE – OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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



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## 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

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“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.

GUIDELINES TO THE USE OF WILD BIRDS IN RESEARCH  
The Ornithological Council

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## STAFF FEEDBACK

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.

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## 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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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## QUESTIONS?

Submit to the chat box in the GoToMeeting control panel

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## QUESTION I

What is your opinion on animals that have received CFA for antibody production to be made available for adoption after study end?

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## 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?

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## QUESTIONS?

Submit to the chat box in the GoToMeeting control panel

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**Topic TBD**



OLAW Online Seminar  
September 26, 2019

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