

Meeting Summary 2

2/3/04

We first reviewed articles and discussion ensued... (total time-2 hours, 20 minutes)

I. Liz R.: Reinhardt, V., Rossell, M. Self-biting in caged macaques: cause, effect, and treatment. Printed 2/6/03 from the website-

http://www.awioline.org/Lab_animals/biblio/jaaws4.html

- Males individually housed are more likely to injure themselves
- Causes of self-injurious behavior-separation from sexual partner, companion, disruption of routine, presence of personnel
- 43% leave no visible wound therefore personnel have to be there right at that moment to observe
- Discussion of Guanfazine (dopamine agonist) as treatment (also tryptophan article)-create happiness--discussion on how getting to the root of the problem of relief is important. Medication could be a short term solution.
- Comment by Deb-When animal is displaying abnormal behavior when personnel approach; personnel leave to calm the animal and therefore the animal is now rewarded for doing something bad=good thing to try to examine in the future

II. Becky B.- Yarashevsky, F. (1975). Self-mutilation in soviet prisons.

This article describes psychopathic prisoners living in poor prison conditions:

- Would be interesting to compare their behavior to the behavior in a facility in the U.S. where the inmates are treated better
- Also interesting to compare causes of self-mutilation to monkeys in captivity (to get attention, insufferable condition of their lives, etc.)
- Article pointed out that prisoners with theft and extortion showed abnormal behaviors (normal mental state); others did not show self-mutilation; differences in this could be due to differences in personality, degrees of self-consciousness and emotional capacity (would be interesting to look at why some monkeys can cope with the research environment while others cannot)
- Need to compare the amount of self-mutilation in monkeys to the occurrence in the wild
- Look at all the different causes-internal (psychological manifestation) v. external (unfamiliar personnel); once establish cause, then pick the appropriate solution

Follow up comment from Amy-6/04: Primates Inc could write on various issues that don't necessarily need empirical data such as listing simple ways to improve animal welfare (i.e. training monkeys to reduce aggression by rewarding exclusively the positive behaviors-we know this works due to personal accounts of animal trainers)

III. Other side statements/comments/issues that came up throughout the meeting

- Speculation that retirement will be slow in the beginning from federal institutions, may get independent ownerships for awhile until we build a trusting relationship with research institutions. Also another source of retirement aid to nonhuman primates could be from capuchins retired from Helping Hands

- How do we change/enforce the animal welfare act and stay on the research institutions good side? We promote the animal welfare act by drawing from current research and argue that healthy animals make good science and psychologically distressed animals not relieved in captivity deserve retirement/ rehabilitation. Comment-this will be hard for the researchers performing terminal studies, b/c they are desperate to get monkeys-Counter comment- maybe enforcement of the animal welfare act will not allow distressed animals to be involved in these stressful procedures-WILL not be easy
- When an animal is put down clinically (and some experimentally?), it is put on a tissue distribution list-motivation for tissue distribution is education and not money, the tissues are not sold (Amy not aware of that fact, thought a monkey was worth \$5,000 dead or alive-this shows that money is not the motivation for euthanasia. The motivation then, for tissue distribution, is education. Primates inc will also provide education, perhaps instead of putting down a psychologically distressed animal, the facility might retire the monkey to learn from the rehabilitation of that animal (through the noninvasive studies that primates inc will perform)
- If the sanctuary does provide empirical data showing that we can rehabilitate monkeys displaying self-mutilation, then we can promote their retirement
- If trust is an issue between research facilities and refuges, then building a noninvasive, researcher-based facility will increase the amount of retirement
- If money is the issue (i.e. would rather sell monkeys to research rather than give them away) then we could get funding for noninvasive studies and then ask for money in the budget to purchase animal (just like normal research grants) and go one step further to ask for lifetime care (this will also set a good example for researchers to ask for money put toward the lifetime care of the animal)
- If our promotion of retirement gets a couple more monkeys out a year, that will be progress and employee morale is bound to increase. If scientists are interested in learning about the relief of abnormal behavior, then they should be willing to work with us to inform us of the animal's clinical history (at least clinical-don't want to press to hard for experimental information)

IV. Amy-How to form a nonprofit organization from a researcher's standpoint. Please email rhesuslover@msn.com if you would like a copy of the nonprofit presentation (I don't want to overload anyone's email; I could mail a cd as well).