



UW OFFICIAL BACKTRACKS ON MONKEYS' FATE (ALL EDITIONS)

PACT WITH ZOO VIOLATED MORE RECENTLY (FIRST EDITION)

PACT WITH VILAS ZOO VIOLATED MORE RECENTLY (SECOND EDITION)

Published on Thursday, September 18, 1997

© 1997 Madison Newspapers, Inc.

Byline: By Jason Shepard Correspondent for The Capital Times

A month after the UW-Madison admitted to a "serious breach" of an agreement with the Henry Vilas Zoo, new incidents are still coming to light and questions are being raised about the candor of UW officials regarding research on zoo monkeys.

In a written statement released Tuesday, Joe Kennitz, interim director of the university's Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, admitted that at least one animal has been used in invasive studies since he took over the helm of the primate center in August 1996.

The monkey had a fetus removed from her womb 20 days after conception so scientists could study it.

"This assignment and procedure were made by error and not as an intentional exception to the agreement," Kennitz wrote. "I am chagrined that this oversight occurred."

Kennitz wrote to newspapers last weekend to say that no improper assignments had been made under his leadership.

He wrote: "I deeply regret this breach of trust between the primate center and the zoo's administration, as well as the public. Importantly, none of our current staff intentionally violated the agreement. Furthermore, no exceptions to the agreement have been made during my tenure as interim director, which began one year ago."

The Capital Times has learned that two other monkeys in addition to the one that Kennitz refers to were used in biomedical research projects within the past year in ways that may have violated the zoo agreement.

Computer records from the primate center show that one monkey was given a heavy dose of drugs, and another had its ova surgically removed after it was given hormone injections.

Monkey No. 92022 was given a heavy mixture of drugs on July 7, 1997, including Valium, which

typically has a calming effect; dexamethasone, a steroid; and furosemide, a diuretic.

The veterinarian's report states: "Animal was dosed with experimental compound. Had an immediate seizure but recovered within 30 seconds. Thirty minutes, down in cage, temperature (was) 108 degrees."

Additionally, five monkeys have been taken from the zoo within the past year and have been used in AIDS studies, although Kemnitz said none of them have been injected with the simian AIDS virus.

Some are used for occasional blood samples or for "responsiveness to a vaccination-like challenge," Kemnitz said.

As recently as Monday, Kemnitz had denied any violation of the agreement since he was director. A statement released then had Kemnitz saying: "No monkeys have been removed from the zoo facility since Aug. 21, 1996, and used for what we have traditionally categorized as invasive procedures. Two monkeys . . . underwent a fertility protocol and had eggs harvested by a laparoscopic procedure. This is no longer allowed pending establishment of a formal definition of 'invasive.'"

The UW/zoo agreement, most recently updated in 1995, states: "These animals (removed from the zoo) are studied in non-invasive research or assigned to our breeding colony. Investigative procedures include those, with no damage or consequences to the animal, required for veterinary health or routine procedures utilized in human medicine. These procedures cause no physical or sensory deficit."

The Capital Times in August reported potential violations of a 1989 agreement between the UW and the zoo. That agreement banned invasive research on monkeys housed at the monkey house at the zoo, which is owned and operated by the university.

The UW admitted it violated the agreement as many as 201 times since 1989, but said finding out how and why would be nearly impossible. They also said all of the violations occurred under directors who were no longer with the UW.

After the initial media reports of potential violations, Graduate School Dean Virginia Hinshaw launched an investigation into the matter.

She found that UW scientists used 65 zoo monkeys in invasive studies, killed 26 for their tissues, and sold 110 to outside organizations. She vowed never to let a violation occur again, but said she was not planning to hold anyone directly accountable.

At that time, Hinshaw said she wished someone would have come to her earlier with knowledge of the breach. The Capital Times then obtained a copy of a letter written to Hinshaw in May 1996 informing her of the breach.

While acknowledging that she received the letter, she said she honestly did not remember reading that portion of the letter because she was dealing with other personnel-related issues with its author at the time.

The same scientist who wrote the May 1996 letter, Dr. Kim Bauers, filed an open records request with Kemnitz and UW attorney John Dowling in June asking to review records related to the transfer of zoo monkeys for invasive studies.

Her request went unanswered and she wrote a follow-up letter on July 7, 1997, reminding Kemnitz and Dowling about her request. She still did not receive a response.

Her unanswered request fuels concerns of critics that UW officials may have known about the improper use of zoo monkeys before The Capital Times reports, but did nothing about it.

Bauers contended that primate center officials did not respond to the requests because they did not want her to know what happened to the monkeys once they left the zoo.

Bauers has alleged previously that officials were involved in a cover-up and said they locked her out of research data that was essential for her to complete a seven-year research project.

Bauers is on the UW payroll until February 1998. Her contract has not been renewed.

Dowling, the UW lawyer working on the Bauers case, told The Capital Times that the open records request is being worked on and has not been delayed for malicious reasons. He said he has simply been working with Bauers and her attorney on many different personnel issues and never felt the open records request was a pressing issue.

"I've been informed by Joe Kemnitz that he's still in the process of working on it," Dowling said. "It involves a great deal of information . . . and he's had some difficulty putting it all together."

Hinshaw, in a written statement Friday, said she had asked Dowling to "expedite" the requests. She said she was not aware of Bauers' requests until last week when The Capital Times asked about them.

"Since our overall goal is to respond as quickly as possible in a reasonable time frame, I was concerned that the request had not been completed," Hinshaw said.

"However, responding has been particularly difficult in this case because of the volume of requests directed to different people and the detailed nature of the information sought."

Tina Kaske, executive director of the Madison-based Alliance for Animals, is calling for an independent review of the primate center violations.

"My concern is that it is like the fox guarding the hen house," Kaske said.

She added: "This is not just about us as animal rights people. The UW violated a promise to the public about the use of these monkeys that are on display at the zoo. It's not just a problem between our group and the UW. This is an issue that involves everyone in Madison."

Search again:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="submit" value="Search"/>
----------------------	---------------------------------------

All articles © Madison Newspapers, Inc. and may not be republished without permission.

If you have questions or comments about the archives, please send us [feedback](#).

Return to [archives](#) or [madison.com](#)



PRIMATE CENTER IS COMMITTED TO HUMANE RESEARCH

Published on Saturday, September 13, 1997

© 1997 Madison Newspapers, Inc.

Byline: Joseph W. Kemnitz, senior scientist, interim director, Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center

Dear Editor: As many in the Madison community know, the University of Wisconsin's relationship with the Henry Vilas Zoo has existed for more than 60 years.

Since its inception in the early 1960s, Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center has provided a building housing up to 200 macaques at the zoo.

During this time the relationship has been mutually beneficial: Monkeys were used for research purposes at the zoo and on campus, and the monkeys at the zoo were available for the public's enjoyment and education.

The center is currently recognized internationally for the excellence of its research program. The program is fully reviewed and accredited by external agencies in terms of humane treatment of animals. It should be noted that our monkeys at the zoo exist because of support from the National Institutes of Health for use in biomedical research, and this is a formal, contractual relationship.

In response to animal rights activity, an informal agreement was made in 1989 between a former director of the primate center and the director of the zoo.

This agreement stated that we would not use our monkeys from the zoo in invasive experiments at the primate center. The agreement was made in good faith and reflected the balance of observational and experimental research activities at that time.

In the 1990s, research priorities have changed, and there has been greater need for monkeys to be studied to solve problems of human health, such as AIDS and diseases related to aging.

From 1990 until 1996, while the primate center was under new leadership, some of the monkeys that had been born at the zoo were used for biomedical research on campus. No monkeys were part of invasive experiments while they were on display at the zoo.

It has become clear that the primate center did not fully abide by the agreement with the zoo by using some of our monkeys from that facility in invasive and sometimes terminal experiments.

It was my understanding and that of the colony management staff of the primate center that these exceptions to the agreement of 1989 had been discussed by the former director of the center and the director of the zoo. We now know that this was not the case.

I deeply regret this breach of trust between the center and the zoo's administration, as well as the public.

Importantly, none of our current staff intentionally violated the agreement. Furthermore, no exceptions to the agreement have been made during my tenure as interim director, which began one year ago.

The center has a long history of contributions to primate research, conservation and education, and we intend to continue our leadership role in these vital areas. We remain committed to a humane and beneficial future for our animals housed at the zoo.

The primate center, the UW and the zoo will work closely together to accomplish this goal.

Type of story: Letter

Search again:

<input type="text"/>	Search
----------------------	--------

All articles © Madison Newspapers, Inc. and may not be republished without permission.
If you have questions or comments about the archives, please send us [feedback](#).

Return to [archives](#) or [madison.com](#)



UW SCIENTISTS DENY KNOWING MONKEYS HAD LIVED AT ZOO

Published on Monday, August 11, 1997

© 1997 Madison Newspapers, Inc.

Byline: By Jason Shepard The Capital Times

Scientists at the UW-Madison Primate Research Center say it's not their job to know the birthplace of monkeys they use and often kill in experiments.

Presented with data showing that monkeys raised at the Henry Vilas Zoo had died in researchers' hands, David Pauza and Paul Kaufman, two primate scientists at the University of Wisconsin, said they weren't aware that monkeys in their studies had been born at the zoo.

The UW primate center, which owns the monkey house at the zoo and pays for the care of its 158 monkeys, uses hundreds of animals each year in pursuit of medical research.

The distinction between the monkeys at the zoo and other animals raised by the center for experiments is an important one. Primate center officials made written promises that they intended the monkeys housed at the zoo only for observational research and as an educational resource for the public.

The use of at least a dozen zoo monkeys, and perhaps scores more, for lethal experimentation apparently violates written promises by UW scientists not to use monkeys born at the zoo for invasive research. Pauza said at no time during the past eight years did he knowingly use a zoo monkey for his AIDS research.

Data obtained by The Capital Times and confirmed with Joe Kemnitz, interim director of the Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, show at least four monkeys born at the zoo were used by Pauza's research team to study AIDS.

"I don't have the authority to assign monkeys," Pauza said, adding that he has always bent over backward to comply with a policy prohibiting zoo monkeys from being used in research.

"This agreement has always caused major problems because it has delayed many projects," he said.

His statement comes a day after Virginia Hinshaw, dean of the UW Graduate School, announced she was launching an investigation into reports that the primate center had broken its agreement with the zoo.

An investigation by The Capital Times revealed that at least a dozen zoo monkeys have been used for invasive or deadly research. Some sources at the center say that number may be as high as 70.

Kaufman, like Pauza, said he did not know he had used zoo monkeys, and said it was the assigner's

responsibility to comply with the zoo agreement.

The assigner, Kirk Boehm, did not return a phone call from The Capital Times on Sunday.

Ei Terasawa, another scientist who studied some of the monkeys that were reviewed by The Capital Times, refused to comment. She said she did not want to talk to a reporter and said she was upset to be contacted at home.

Kemnitz, who as interim director of the center is expected to be replaced perhaps as early as this week, maintained Sunday that the primate center has done nothing wrong. The monkeys taken from the zoo and used for invasive research are a tiny percentage of all the monkeys at the center and represent a legitimate exception to the non-use policy, he said.

Today the primate center released another letter written on Feb. 1, 1995, to zoo Director David Hall. In the letter, the previous center director, John Hearn, restated the UW policy that the monkeys would not be used in invasive research, but he added that "in any cases where exceptional circumstances require a different use, for example unique genetic characteristics requiring more detailed investigation for human and animal health, we will review the proposal in advance with you."

Hall said this morning that he remembers discussing an exception at only one point during the past eight years, regarding two monkeys that were genetically unique.

The 1995 letter reaffirmed two previous letters, dated in 1989 and 1990, stating the non-invasive use policy.

Kemnitz said the primate center, in connection with the UW News and Public Affairs Office, may release a statement as early as this afternoon explaining the situation.

When asked if a reporter could review records for as many as 70 zoo monkeys that may have been killed or used for invasive research, Kemnitz said top UW administrators were engaged in a review and would release any information later.

Hinshaw, who is Kemnitz's immediate supervisor, said she has asked for documentation of the exceptions to the agreement with the zoo.

She also wants to see monkey records for those taken from the zoo and used in research, she said Sunday. She will review the process used by officials to determine how a monkey fit into the exception clause, she said.

Scientists, meanwhile, say it is their business to conduct research -- research that they maintain is critical to solving problems in human health.

Pauza said he thought the UW policy in regard to the zoo monkeys should have been updated annually to "make sure it is in sync with current research." Monkeys at the zoo may not have been critical to some forms of research 10 years ago, but things can change, he said.

Kemnitz responded by saying that the birthplace of a monkey is open to anyone. Had researchers wanted to know where their subject was born, they could have found that information easily, he indicated.

"We have complete documentation for all of our animals regarding their clinical and experimental history," Kemnitz said. "If an investigator is not aware of the origins, it's not because the information

was not available, but perhaps because the investigator felt that the location of where the animal was born was not essential."

One of the UW monkeys at the zoo.

Search again:

<input type="text"/>	Search
----------------------	--------

All articles © Madison Newspapers, Inc. and may not be republished without permission.
If you have questions or comments about the archives, please send us [feedback](#).

Return to [archives](#) or [madison.com](#)