

Monkey News

Monkeys as Pork

Congress is being duped by the NIH.

The NIH National Primate Research Center System (NPRCS) is spread across eight states and maintains approximately 20,000 monkeys and chimpanzees. This issue of *The Congressional Educator* provides Congress with recent medical “breakthroughs” by NPRCS scientists.

California National Primate Research Center

Amaral DG, Bauman MD, Capitanio JP, Lavenex P, Mason WA, Mauldin-Jourdain ML, Mendoza SP. The amygdala: is it an essential component of the neural network for social cognition? *Neuropsychologia* 2003;41(4):517-22.

“We have re-investigated the relationship between amygdala lesions and social behavior in ... mature and neonatal rhesus monkeys who were prepared with ... ibotenic acid lesions of the amygdaloid complex. These animals display clear alterations in emotional and social behavior.”

The team concluded that a critical role for this region of a monkey’s brain has yet to be discovered.

New England National Primate Research Center

Lutz C, Marinus L, Chase W, Meyer J, Novak

The Congressional Educator is mailed quarterly to members of Congress.

For information contact:

The Primate Freedom Project
P.O. Box 6219
Santa Barbara, California 93160

www.primatelifreedom.com

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M. Self-injurious behavior in male rhesus macaques does not reflect externally directed aggression. *Physiol Behav* 2003 Jan;78(1):33-9.

Researchers reported that self-injurious behaviors (SIB) such as self-biting and self-wounding did not increase when monkeys were forced into situations that elicited aggressive responses to other monkeys.

SIB is a common in monkeys housed individually. Monkeys raised in laboratories are typically isolated from other monkeys, remain socially inept, and display aggression when confronted with other monkeys.

Oregon National Primate Research Center

Sekhon HS, Keller JA, Proskocil BJ, Martin EL, Spindel ER. Maternal nicotine exposure upregulates collagen gene expression in fetal monkey lung. Association with alpha7 nicotinic acetylcholine receptors. *Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol* 2002 Jan;26(1):31-41.

Scientists report that pregnant women probably should not smoke tobacco.

“... a second set of timed-pregnant monkeys was treated with nicotine from Days 26-160 of pregnancy (term = 165 d). On gestation Day 160, fetuses were delivered by cesarean section, kept overnight in the primate center nursery, and subjected to pulmonary function testing the following day and killed for tissue analysis.”

“This direct evidence of adverse effects of nicotine on the developing fetus further supports the need for active counseling and aggressive campaigns against smoking during pregnancy.”

Southwest National Primate Research Center

Brent L, Koban T, Ramirez S. Abnormal, abusive, and stress-related behaviors in baboon mothers. *Biol Psychiatry* 2002 Dec 1;52(11):1047-56.

This study resulted in the observation that low social rank and infant abuse are positively correlated in baboons.

“... the pathologic and stress-related behavior of 62 female baboons living in social groups was studied during pregnancy and after the birth of an infant.... Abusive behaviors toward the infant were common, occurring in 55% of the subjects. Mothers with low dominance rank, who usually have lower levels of social support, had higher levels of abusive behavior during the postpartum period.”

Tulane National Primate Research Center

Veazy RS. The Effect Alcohol on SIV Pathogenesis. (sic) NIH National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: Grant Number: 1R01AA013563. 2003.

Researchers are attempting to determine whether alcohol consumption will exacerbate the progression of a simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV).

One aim of the project is to: “determine whether chronic alcohol consumption results in an increased rate of mucosal SIV transmission. This will be accomplished by chronically administering alcohol to macaques, and comparing their susceptibility to an atraumatic, intrarectal, low-dose inoculation of SIVmac251, with that of non-alcohol consuming controls.”

Is it only chronic alcohol users who should engage in safe sex?

Washington National Primate Research Center

Bellanca RU, Crockett CM. Factors predicting increased incidence of abnormal behavior in male pigtailed macaques. *Am J Primatol* 2002 Oct;58(2):57-69.

“Nursery-reared subjects displayed more abnormal behavior than mother-reared subjects... the proportion of the first 48 months of life spent singly housed was positively related to the amount of abnormal behavior at maturity.”

Maternal deprivation has been understood to induce self-mutilation and

depression in monkeys since at least the late 1950s. The importance of a mother is well known.

Wisconsin National Primate Research Center

Coe CL, Lubach GR. Critical periods of special health relevance for psychoneuroimmunology. Brain Behav Immun 2003 Feb;17(1):3-12.

“Our research with nonhuman primates indicates that the immaturity of a young infant's immune responses makes it more vulnerable, especially during the fetal and neonatal stages.”

Is the discovery that fetuses and infants are particularly vulnerable really a breakthrough? The same researchers explain their current studies:

“The present manipulations involve maternal stress and endocrine activation shown previously to affect postnatal immunity. ... Study 1 will compare control and disturbed infants generated from pregnancies involving acute daily stress for 6 weeks of the 24-week pregnancy. The disturbance is induced

either early or late in gestation, because the timing has different postnatal immune consequences. The manipulations in Study 2 involve maternal endocrine activation, induced by daily injections of ACTH over a 2-week period. Maternal hormone treatments will occur during the same early and late gestational periods as the psychological stressor to determine if comparable effects on fetal development occur.” [From National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NAIAD) grant number 5R01AI046521.]

Yerkes National Primate Research Center

Howell LL, Hoffman JM, Votaw JR, Landrum AM, Wilcox KM, Lindsey KP. Cocaine-induced brain activation determined by positron emission tomography neuroimaging in conscious rhesus monkeys. Psychopharmacology (Berl) 2002 Jan;159(2):154-60.

“OBJECTIVES: The present study used positron emission tomography (PET)... to characterize the acute effects of cocaine administration on cerebral blood flow in conscious rhesus monkeys.

METHODS: Functional changes in cerebral blood flow were determined in four drug-naïve subjects ... following acute i.v. administration of cocaine. Specific attention was devoted to the development of an effective and comfortable head restraint device to use in the imaging of conscious monkeys. **RESULTS:** ... Cocaine had significant, dose-related effects on cerebral blood flow... **CONCLUSION:** The pattern of brain activation induced by acute administration of cocaine may provide a useful means to evaluate medication effectiveness for treating cocaine addiction.”

Researchers studying human cocaine users – during their cocaine use – have already used the method described. The Yerkes research was clearly wasteful and the cause of meaningless suffering.

See, for instance:

Volkow ND, Wang GJ, Fischman MW, Foltin R, Fowler JS, Franceschi D, Franceschi M, Logan J, Gatley SJ, Wong C, Ding YS, Hitzemann R, Pappas N. Effects of route of administration on cocaine induced dopamine transporter blockade in the human brain. Life Sci 2000 Aug 11;67(12):1507-15.

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