

Res. , 2010-2012

ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY PANEL TO STUDY THE TREATMENT OF MONKEYS USED IN EXPERIMENTS IN DANE COUNTY AND THE ETHICS OF EXPERIMENTING ON MONKEYS

Experiments are done on about 9,000 monkeys in Dane County every year — more than anywhere else in the world and nearly as many as in all 27 countries of the European Union. Recent news reports about problems in UW–Madison’s laboratories have raised citizens’ concern about the treatment of monkeys. Citizens are also concerned about the ethics of experimenting on monkeys. WISC-TV, Unity Church, the Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry, Progressive Dane, the Badger Herald, and the Bay Creek Neighborhood association have called for a formal study of this ethical issue. Almost two thousand people have signed related petitions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chair of the Dane County Board of Supervisors shall appoint a Citizens Advisory Panel on Primate Experimentation consisting of five-to-nine residents of Dane County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Citizens Advisory Panel will

- Select a chairperson and a vice chairperson.
- Identify experts on monkeys, laboratory conditions, and the ethics of experimenting on non-human animals.
- Solicit information and opinions from the experts to help answer these questions:
 - Is the treatment of monkeys in laboratories in Dane County humane?
 - What is needed to enable the retirement of monkeys from UW–Madison’s laboratories after they are used in experiments?
 - Is experimenting on monkeys ethical?
- Review other relevant information.
- Write a report documenting and explaining the Panel’s conclusions within six months of the Panel’s first meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that before conducting hearings, the Citizens Advisory Panel will contact officials of the local institutions involved in primate experimentation (i.e. the University of Wisconsin–Madison and Covance) and the local animal advocacy community (i.e. the Alliance for Animals) and request suggestions for a) experts, b) useful information, and c) available resources that will aid the Citizens Advisory Panel in its work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Panel’s “Final Report” will include a recommendation to the Dane County Board of Supervisors either to officially endorse or officially oppose experimenting on monkeys in Dane County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, after completing the “Final Report”, the Citizens Advisory Panel will arrange with the County Board chair for a presentation of its findings to the Dane County Board of Supervisors and for a vote on the Panel’s recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all meetings of the Citizens Advisory Panel will be public. Meeting space for use by the Citizens Advisory Panel will be provided by Dane County. Costs associated with expert witness travel, lodging, and meals will be the responsibility of the expert witnesses. The County will not be asked or expected to pay for the printing of the final report; that cost will be borne by stakeholders such as UW–Madison, Covance, and the Alliance for Animals. The County will not be asked or expected to provide administrative support for the study. The Panel will ask other stakeholders to provide administrative support for these functions:

- scheduling meetings and reserving rooms
- writing and distributing agendas
- writing and distributing meeting minutes
- any other reasonable administrative support that the panel deems necessary to fulfill its directive.

The Alliance for Animals has already offered this administrative support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the “Final Report” will be placed on the official Dane County website (<http://www.countyofdane.com/>).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Citizens Advisory Panel on Primate Experimentation Panel will be dissolved sixty days after delivery of its Final Report.