

Stop the primate suffering



The University of Cambridge wants permission to build a massive new research centre in which, every year, the skulls of hundreds of monkeys will be cut open and their brains deliberately damaged with chemicals or through surgery. Please support the campaign opposing these cruel and unscientific experiments.



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Join the growing opposition to the proposed monkey labs

A wealth of evidence - including reports by scientists who have carried out such experiments, as well as a recent undercover investigation by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection at the University of Cambridge itself - demonstrates that monkey brain experiments cause terrible suffering. Post-operative symptoms include seizures, vomiting, severe bruising, tremors, and bleeding from head wounds. There is also longer term physical and mental suffering.

The University claims that the experiments will provide insights into human diseases such as Alzheimer's, Huntington's, Parkinson's, schizophrenia, depression and stroke. Yet there are crucial biological and behavioural differences between monkeys and people; and the artificial way in which the disease symptoms are induced also means that the experiments cannot be reliably applied to the human situation. It is little wonder that opinion polls show that the overwhelming majority of the public opposes such experiments.

Why then is the University of Cambridge intent on building the centre - on Green Belt land - despite it having already been turned down twice by the local planning authority?

- One reason is that animal experimentation has become an ingrained habit, with those involved dismissive of the animals' suffering. The consequence is that modern and effective non-animal methods are sidelined.
- Another reason is that careers and reputations have been established based on animal studies. This has resulted in resistance by many in the scientific community to modernisation and change.
- Lucrative research grants are also at stake (often paid from your taxes). Equally important are the collaborations with drug and biotech companies - businesses whose main objective is making a handsome profit. They see animal experiments as a convenient way of amassing research data to impress government regulators, irrespective of its lack of relevance to people.

Join us in urging the University of Cambridge to abandon its plans for the new monkey research facility. It should, instead, dedicate its intellectual and financial resources to building a world-class Centre of Excellence (on a non-Green Belt land site!). Here, human neurological diseases could be studied without recourse to animal experiments, using state-of-the-art non-animal technologies, such as computer modelling, cell and tissue cultures, non-invasive brain imaging and clinical observation. The government should contribute generous financial assistance for such a project.

A public inquiry into the proposed primate centre is due to be held late 2002 or early 2003.

To find out about the simple steps you can take to help combat the proposed monkey centre and promote research that is compassionate and biologically relevant to humans, contact X-CAPE.

www.x-cape.org.uk Tel. 01223 311828.

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