

Captive Care Working Party

Annual Report 2002

Over the course of the year, the CCWP has considered the following issues:

Public Inquiry into the proposal by Cambridge University to establish a Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience

The public inquiry into the Girton College proposal opened this month (November 2002) and will act as possibly the largest public debate on the use of primates in medical research ever held in the UK. While focused on one particular centre, which is appealing against the refusal of planning permission, the inquiry is likely to air arguments for and against the use of primates in biomedical laboratories.

It was decided that the PSGB/CCWP will make a representation to the University of Cambridge regarding the design and operating procedures of the facility should the planning application be passed.

Boyd Group papers on non-human primates

The Boyd group is a forum for dialogue on contentious issues in laboratory animal use. This year they published a series of papers on 'The Use of Non-Human Primates in Research and Testing', which included reports on: 'Evidence on the moral status of non human primates'; 'Welfare considerations in the use of macaques and marmosets'; and the 'The use of non-human primates in regulatory toxicology'. The papers carry no legal weight but are likely to be an important reference influencing decision-makers.

Government and European reports

The House of Lords Select Committee report on the use of animals in science made little reference to primates.

The much delayed Animal Procedures Committee (APC) Primate Sub-Committee report on 'The Use of Primates Under the Animals in Scientific Procedures Act (ASPA)' is expected to be published early in 2003 and will concentrate on primate use in regulatory toxicology.

The European Commission Scientific Steering Committee issued a statement this year on the need for non-human primates in biomedical research.

Future of the CCWP

Mark Prescott has been nominated to take over as convenor of the CCWP from Stephen Brend who has moved to Indonesia. The Working Party feels that it is timely to agree a constructive, positive, well-defined and well-supported role for the CCWP within PSGB. Members of the Working Party would like to see the CCWP have a much greater influence on promoting high standards of captive care for primates within the UK and elsewhere, which would benefit the lives of many individual primates. Ways in which this could be achieved were explored at the CCWP's annual meeting held in October.

Finally, Stephen Brend would like to thank members of the Working Party and Council for the support they have given him over the last three years and wishes Mark well as the new convenor.

Stephen Brend