

7 Reasons Why NIH Should Shut Down All 7 National Primate Research Centers

The national primate research centers (NPRCs) developed out of a program that was created in the 1960s. Their mission? To import and breed monkeys and other primates for experimentation and to develop primate “models” for human disease. Funded with taxpayer dollars through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), these centers have served as breeding grounds for diseases as well as places of immeasurable pain, misery, and death. They have also utterly failed to advance the health and well-being of humans.

NIH: EXPERIMENTS ON CHIMPANZEES ARE UNNECESSARY

In 2013, NIH stopped funding experimentation on chimpanzees after concluding that “research involving chimpanzees has rarely accelerated new discoveries or the advancement of human health for infectious diseases.”

Using our closest living relatives in experiments didn’t advance our understanding of *human* disease, yet research on other primates continues.

THE REMAINING 7 NPRCS ARE NO BETTER THAN NEW ENGLAND’S WAS

In 2015, the New England Primate Research Center—embroiled in controversy over systemic neglect and mistreatment of monkeys, including the deaths of

12 monkeys by dehydration—was shut down by its host institution, Harvard University. There are now seven remaining national primate research centers—California NPRC at the University of California–Davis; Oregon NPRC at Oregon Health & Science University; Southwest NPRC at Texas Biomedical Research Institute; Tulane NPRC at

Tulane University; Washington NPRC at the University of Washington; Wisconsin NPRC at the University of Wisconsin–Madison; and Yerkes NPRC at Emory University. It’s time to shut them down.

AT NPRCS, MOTHERS AND THEIR BABIES ARE TORTURED

Each center breeds and experiments on thousands of monkeys, mostly macaques. Warehoused in small, barren, stainless-steel cages for experiments that can last months or even years, monkeys

at national primate research centers are deprived of meaningful companionship. They have no control over their lives. They’re forcibly impregnated, but they don’t get to raise their babies.

While a couple of the centers have outdoor spaces where “breeders” are kept, the babies and juveniles are taken away from their mothers within the first year, causing unbearable anguish. The continual transferring of





monkeys in and out of these laboratory breeding corrals often leads to horrific injuries and even infant deaths. Once removed from the breeding corrals, the young monkeys are used in experiments that are invasive, painful, distressing, and very often deadly.

COUNTLESS DEATHS. ZERO CURES.

For decades, the experimenters destroying these monkeys' lives have been aware of the torment they've caused as well as of the inaccuracy of their findings. According to a recent paper published by one of them, condemning these profoundly social beings to lonely lives of isolation—and using them as though they were test tubes with tails—causes “potent lifelong health effects,” which can severely distort the results of infectious disease or behavioral experiments.

Tens of thousands of monkeys have been killed in experiments in the national primate research centers during the past 35 years. They promised vaccines for HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis, but there are none. Why? Monkeys simply are not tiny humans, and keeping these sensitive beings in captivity compromises their immune systems, making already dubious results even more questionable.

WORSE THAN PRISON CAMPS

Inside the centers, weak animal protection laws allow atrocities that are forbidden at prisoner of war detention camps: imprisoning monkeys in small cages, using starvation and dehydration as motivators, prolonged restraint, tearing infants away from their mothers, and even embedding devices in their skulls.



DOCUMENTED ABUSE

At every center where monkeys have been injured or killed, federal inspectors have documented cruelty, negligence, and incompetence. Some monkeys have suffered without veterinary care, some have been denied adequate pain relief, others have been lost for days, and still others have been burned or strangled—this is all in addition to being experimented on and eventually killed. At one center, a monkey was scalded to death after his cage was run through a high-temperature mechanical cage washer while he was still trapped inside. At another, a monkey escaped and then died, unnoticed, stuck behind a cage.

SPECIESISM

NPRC experimenters are speciesists—they ascribe an inferior status to primates simply because they aren't human. Speciesism defines other animals as little more than research tools (or food or fabric or toys). But these primates aren't objects that belong to us—they're individuals with their own interests, just like humans and all other animals.

SHUT THEM ALL DOWN

Join thousands of PETA supporters calling for the immediate closure of the national primate research centers and the release of their monkey victims to appropriate sanctuaries, where they can spend the rest of their lives in peace and with dignity. **Please take action at PETA.org/NPRC. Or text* PRIMATE to 73822.**



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