



Huntingdon Life Sciences

2008

EXPOSED



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» Captured and farmed inside tiny rusted cages, this macaque monkey awaits inside HLS' stock colony after being transported from Vietnam



In 2007 and 2008, **Animal Defenders International** (ADI) carried out a Europe-wide investigation into the breeding, transportation and experimental procedures on primates. Their investigation took them straight to none other than Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), where they proceeded to infiltrate the notorious laboratory by working undercover in the experimental monkey unit.

Since HLS was first exposed by a Channel 4 journalist in 1997, there have been six shocking undercover exposés, each revealing horrendous animal cruelty, gross misconduct and huge scientific failure. Now in 2009, we can see the seventh time HLS has been infiltrated in just twelve years – and once again exposed for extreme animal cruelty and misconduct.

>> HLS: Infiltrated again

A volunteer from ADI / NAVS spent a year working in the primate toxicology units inside HLS, finishing in the summer of 2008. Their role as 'animal technician' was to clean and feed animals, and to assist researchers with procedures. Customers testing products at HLS included GlaxoSmithKline and AstraZeneca. As a contract testing laboratory, any company can pay for any chemical, drug or compound to be tested on animals.

>> From Vietnam to Huntingdon: HLS' monkey supplier

The undercover investigator was told that monkeys were shipped in from Vietnam, China and Mauritius. These journeys are usually 30 hours in length, sometimes exceeding 70 hours, causing huge amounts of stress to the monkeys. At the breeding centre in Vietnam, the monkeys were kept in solitary confinement inside small rusted cages, some of which had collapsed or tipped over, or leaning at extreme angles. The monkeys could barely stand in the tiny boxes, most of which were not even the height of the animals themselves.



“ Monkeys arrived at HLS after midnight... The individual monkey compartments did not allow the animals to stand upright. On arrival most monkeys were frightened and cowered at the back of the box ”

Monkeys were observed to obtain various illnesses after the long journey; high temperature and weight loss, cuts on their heads and faces, flaking skin and bruising.

>> Animal cruelty

1. Housing

Aside from the routine cruelty behind the confinement of sentient creatures, various incidences took place whilst the investigator was working inside HLS. Many of these problems arose from the poor quality of the housing:

- o In one incident, a monkey was found with **blood on his face**, blood at the back of the cage and his toes missing. While some workers claimed he had probably chewed off his own toes, the cut appeared straight and so it was most likely that the monkey had trapped his foot in the cage and sliced off his toes trying to struggle free
- o A male monkey **cut his hand open**, which was glued shut by the vet only to become open again within ten minutes
- o In addition, a **female monkey cut her arm**; the vet stapled shut the wound. As soon as she was returned to her cage, she subsequently pulled out the staples. She was re-caught and the vet then glued shut the injury, also giving her anti-inflammatory drugs
- o Monkeys were **routinely scraped and cut** whilst being continually handled and removed from cages. One monkey was said to be seen getting his head caught on the cage; this resulted in eight staples being used to close the wound. Other times, monkeys were scared and ran into the glass doors at the end of the units
- o Three males and one female monkeys **broke the locks on their cages** during a HIV study and escaped. Upon hearing this, the customer requested chains be put around the cages. However HLS used rough and sharp chains that injured the monkeys



“ The chains holding a cage door shut had sharp edges and one pierced the cheek of a female monkey, leaving her unable to eat; as a result she was force-fed twice a day ”

- o During a HIV study, a female monkey **escaped and was grabbed and bitten** whilst running in front of the other cages of monkeys

o Two female monkeys **escaped** during one experiment because a worker had not secured the cage door; one climbed into a cage with three large males and was **attacked and possibly raped**. She was found completely battered and bruised, and required antibacterials, painkillers and emergency contraception. According to the undercover worker, this happened again less than four months later, when four monkeys broke their cage doors open; HLS had not taken any action to secure the animals from this particular study.

2. Health

Other incidences of gross neglect also took place inside HLS, largely due to stress, mistreatment and the substances forced into the animals. In one case, a monkey was taken from his solitary cage to be dosed by oral gavage (this is the standard procedure inside HLS, which involves forcing a tube down the animals' throat and into the stomach, and pouring down the substance). Due to stress, the monkey began vomiting faeces and having a nose bleed.



A monkey was taken from his cage and immediately vomited faeces, and had a nose bleed. None of these events were recorded in the study. Weeks later, the monkey was still being used, despite still vomiting faeces and bleeding from the nose.

Some monkeys in a different study were reported to be suffering from constant diarrhoea, vomiting and one particular monkey would salivate excessively after oral dosing. One monkey had a chronic skin condition, whilst another died immediately after being dosed.

One particular animal was noted her continued ill health; after arriving with sunken eyes and persistent diarrhoea, the vet finally prescribed some treatments. Weeks passed and the monkey showed no improvement; soon blood could be seen in the faeces of the poor animal. Eventually the vet found she was suffering with a gut parasite and prescribed a treatment for it. However, further examination showed the monkey continued to have diarrhoea and realised she did not have gut parasites at all; the problems were permanent and due to a stress related condition. Weeks later, despite antibiotics, she continued to have problems.

Another female monkey was destroyed simply for a torn ligament after being found with severe muscle wastage and being unable to use her entire leg.

2. Procedures and handling



>> Monkeys are restrained by being strapped into special chairs



Yet more cruelty and suffering arose from the procedures, handling and restraint of monkeys undergoing experiments:

- o Monkeys undergoing experiments needed to be restrained, so are **strapped** into special chairs
- o One member of staff was bitten and subsequently **grabbed the monkey's head and twisted it violently**
- o Monkeys continually suffered **prolapses** and had to be replaced in the study

👉 One [monkey] almost chewed off its finger, gnawing into bone, and continued chewing the hand after it had been dressed by the vet... 🐾

- o Three monkeys suffered **rectal prolapses** during another study; this is due to large amounts of stress

o Several animals showed signs of **great distress** such as chewing metal, dragging their teeth along cage bars and pushing sawdust into their cheeks. They were still orally dosed as normal.

“ Three monkeys on an inhalation study died or had to be killed due to partially collapsed and blocked lungs. Three other animals also collapsed but were revived. Necropsied animals were found to have blackened lungs. Clearly these animals would have suffered a great deal ”

Monkeys, like all animals, are highly intelligent and sentient beings. One scientific paper even describes how a monkey would cry when placed back into his cage after experiments, desperately seeking some affection; “Following treatment [the monkey] would cry if placed in his cage immediately, because he wanted to spend a little more time outside being held...” HLS workers often described how monkeys would always be silent on the days of killings or necropsies.

>> **Science without animals**

The Home Office grants licenses for these experiments with little scrutiny, and fails to truly give any consideration to the alternatives that could be used for primate experiments.

It is often pointed out that large levels of stress in animals can actually cause the results of a study to be invalid, due to the release of hormones from the animals. The expectations of the animals awaiting capture and procedures also has an impact on study results.

There are hundreds of more reliable scientific procedures that could be used in place of animal experiments, from cell cultures to fMRI scanning techniques. To find out more about these techniques, check out the following websites:

>> **Dr Hadwen Trust**

www.drhadwentrust.org.uk

>> **Safer Medicines Campaign**

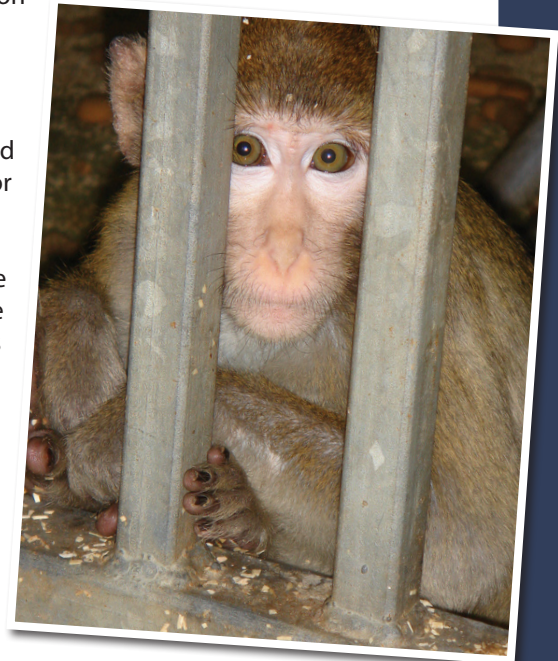
www.curedisease.net

>> **Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM)**

www.pcrm.org

The ADI report also goes into great depth regarding the specific experiments carried out by HLS, with scientific evaluation and in-depth discussion of non-animal techniques that could be used instead of animal tests.

To see the full report, see www.savetheprimates.org.



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Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty

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