

COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL RESEARCH AND ETHICS (CARE)

2018 Annual Report

Members: Michael Hennessy (Chair), Juan Dominguez, Regina Gazes, Bonnie Perdue, Peter Pierre, Jennifer Vonk, and Sangeeta Panicker (APA Staff Liaison).

In pursuit of its mission of safeguarding and promoting ethically and scientifically sound research and teaching involving nonhuman animals in psychological science, in 2018, the Committee on Animal Research and Ethics' (CARE) efforts continued to focus advocacy and outreach. These general goals were advanced in a numerous ways that built on previous years' progress.

Advocacy

Meeting with Offices of Congressional Representatives -- In conjunction with its spring meeting, CARE members met with their respective Congressional representatives and/or their staff to raise awareness of the role of ethical nonhuman animal research in improving the health and wellbeing of both humans and other animals. Citing sustained campaigns of misinformation by entities opposed to nonhuman animal research, CARE members urged their Congressional representatives to continue support for research with nonhuman animals and to oppose bills or amendments that impede important research with nonhuman animals. Prior to going to Capitol Hill, the Committee participated in an advocacy training workshop conducted by the APA Science Government Relations Office (GRO), which provided the Committee with a broad overview of Congress and mechanisms for interacting with Congressional members.

Support of nonhuman animal research and scientists who work with laboratory animals

Letters of Support – In coordination with *Supporting Truth about Animal Research (STAR)*, a coalition of scientific societies founded by CARE, letters to the leadership of various institutions urging them to public support their faculty members who were targets of harassment campaigns launched by groups opposed to research with nonhuman animals.

Policy

Comments on Harmonization of Regulations and Policies for Research with Nonhuman Animals – In response to a request for information from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on mechanisms for improving the coordination of regulations and policies for research with laboratory animals, CARE provided input for the official APA response to NIH.

Comments on the recommendations of the NIH Council on Councils Working Group on Assessing the Safety of Relocating At-Risk Chimpanzees – In response to a request for information from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on the recommendations of the NIH Council on Councils Working Group on Assessing the Safety of Relocating At-Risk Chimpanzees, CARE provided input for the official APA response to NIH.

Comments on Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Traveling by Air with Service Animals – CARE provided input and guidance on the APA response to an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking from the Department of Transportation on the Air Carrier Access Act regulations.

Comments on Transportation of Laboratory Animals – CARE provided background information for an APA letter to the Department of Transportation, urging the Department to require airlines to eliminate policies that bar the transportation of research animals.

Outreach Activities

Fact-based Education about Nonhuman Animal Research -- Noting the dearth of information on the role of nonhuman animal research in psychology in high school psychology and college textbooks, CARE forged collaborations with the APA Committee of Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPSS) and the APA Committee on Associate and Baccalaureate Education (CABE). The goal is to better inform and guide efforts to develop educational materials regarding contributions and continuing importance of nonhuman animal research in psychology.

Future plans and development of new initiatives

CARE discussed its immediate and long-term goals, as well as initiatives to meet these goals, and generated a list of potential initiatives for the Committee to pursue, including:

- **CARE newsletter:** The Committee will re-visit an initiative to write articles on advocacy efforts to be included in the Divisions 3, 6, 25, and 28 newsletters. In addition, an article that member Allyson Bennett had written for the Science Directorate Newsletter: Psychological Science Agenda in 2012, titled *Animal research: The bigger picture and why we need psychologists to speak out*, will be updated. The proposed article(s) will serve as a call to action and include current challenges, APA initiatives and resources for scientists to engage in outreach to the public on the importance of nonhuman animal research for the welfare of both people and other animals.
- **Preparing teachers of psychology:** The Committee will continue to work with CABE and TOPSS to develop lesson plans and modules on specific content areas and to offer annual train-the-trainer workshops to enable teachers to stay current in psychological science.
- **Advocacy:** The Committee will continue its advocacy efforts to promulgate evidence-based regulations and promote implementation of regulations and policies that ensure laboratory animal wellbeing while facilitating scientific progress.

Membership Changes

Regina Gazes, Michael Hennessy, Bonnie Perdue, and Jennifer Vonk continued to serve on the Committee in 2018 and were joined by Juan Dominguez and Peter Pierre. Drs. Gazes and Perdue rotated off the Committee at the end of 2018 and were replaced by Pamela Hunt and Malini Suchak. The Committee elected Dr. Pierre to serve as the Chair in 2019.