

## **Committee on Animal Research & Ethics (CARE)**

### **2020 Annual Report**

#### **Committee Members**

Juan Dominguez, PhD, (Chair), Ruth Colwill, PhD, Kevin Freeman, PhD, Pamela Hunt, PhD, Peter Pierre, PhD, and Malini Suchak, PhD

#### **Staff Liaison(s)**

Sangy Panicker, PhD

#### **Advocating for Responsible Research with Nonhuman Animals**

Noting that the unrelenting assault on research with nonhuman animals has steadily gained strength and met with much success in recent years, CARE focused on advocating at the federal and regulatory levels. CARE engaged in activities to highlight the importance of such research not only to the health and wellbeing of humans, but also that of other animals and the environment. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown and stay at home orders nationwide, a Congressional briefing and Hill Day scheduled for May 2020 was cancelled. Instead, the Committee focused its efforts on tracking and responding to legislative activity in Congress and policy and regulatory initiatives at the agency level.

**Congress:** The Committee endorsed letters to the leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Services, urging them to exclude provisions that would unnecessarily impede vital research with nonhuman animals, in the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations bill. The letter was drafted by the CARE founded *Supporting Truth about Animal Research (STAR): A Coalition of Scientific Societies*

**Federal Agencies:** The Committee provided substantive input to the official APA response to a Department of Transportation Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Traveling by Air with Service Animals.

The Committee also responded to a National Institutes of Health Request for Information (RFI): Enhancing Rigor, Transparency, and Translatability to Improve Biomedical Research Involving Animal Models.

Finally, CARE endorsed a letter sent by the STAR Coalition to the NIH Director, Dr. Francis Collins and the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Dr. Joshua Gordon requesting that NIH issue and broadly disseminate a public statement to convey support for and explanation of the work of psychologist who was the target of a sustained harassment by members of organizations fundamentally opposed to all research with nonhuman animals.

#### **Resolution on the Ownership of Exotic Animals as Pets**

Given that the Committee's mission includes a mandate to *(d) disseminate ... guidelines for protecting the welfare of animals, other than humans, that are used in research, teaching, and*

**practical applications**, and to consult on the implementation of these guidelines, CARE drafted a *Resolution on Ownership of Exotic Animals as Pets*. Research by psychological scientists on the cognitive processes, emotions, and behavior of non-human animals has elucidated the physical and psychological needs of exotic animals and informed our understanding of the psychological issues these animals face when living in environments that do not meet those needs. With this expertise comes the responsibility to ensure that decisions about the welfare of all animals are being guided by psychological research. The *Resolution* was adopted by the APA Council of Representatives at its August 2020 meeting.

#### **Impact on APA's Strategic Priorities**

The Committee's advocacy efforts fit squarely within the APA strategic plan and contribute to numerous goals including (i) expanding the public's perception of psychology to accurately reflect the full breadth of the field, (ii) making psychological science accessible and understandable to the public and key decision makers; and (iii) increasing the impact of APA's legislative, regulatory, marketplace and social welfare advocacy.