Among all the animals that are used in medical research, it is the chimpanzee that brings a unique dimension to the discussion of both the ethics and the science of animal experimentation.

Think about the fact that chimpanzees are so similar to humans that they share 96% of their DNA, and that chimpanzees and humans both feel, think, use tools, fight, love, mourn, use language and so forth. Animal advocates use these facts to support their belief that experimenting on chimpanzees is ethically questionable. Yet scientists who defend research on chimpanzees use the very same facts to support their contention that these animals are similar enough to us to justify scientifically their use as research subjects.

Now, it appears that scientists have bolstered their argument with the recent completion of the Chimpanzee Genome Project, which reveals their stunning similarity to our own genetic make-up.

However, by proving that chimpanzees have so much in common with us at the level of the gene, the vested interest groups—that is, researchers who have a self-serving interest in the continuation of animal research—will no doubt use this similarity to justify invasive research on chimpanzees. They are being disingenuous when they attempt to sell the public, as they have, on the notion that the data from the Chimpanzee Genome Project will only be used for comparative, noninvasive purposes.

The question at hand, though, is this: will their argument hold up scientifically? Science is about investigation. So let’s take an in-depth look at whether or not close is good enough.

For centuries the last bastion of the vested interest groups when defending the use of animal models has been the intact systems argument. Animal model researchers argue that because we can never know how a drug or disease will affect the entire body until it is tested in a whole, living, intact body (or system, to use scientific parlance) we must conduct such research with animals, and the closer the animal’s relationship to humans the better. Thus chimpanzees should be the absolutely best models for conducting research such as for HIV.

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*In the remainder of this essay when I use the terms animal model, animal-based research, and so forth I mean the use of animals as surrogate humans in research on disease and drug effects. Although some think of drug testing as fundamentally different from research on diseases like AIDS and Alzheimer’s, both use animals as causal analogical models and the same concept, that the similarities outweigh the differences, underlie both. Any argument that refutes one (for example drug testing) refutes the other (for example, AIDS research).
Alzheimer’s, hepatitis C, and drug effects. If chimpanzees cannot be used because of their inability to predict a human response, then no animal can be.

It is true that regardless of how much in vitro (test tube) and computer-based research is done, until you have a disease or have taken a drug, no one will know for certain exactly how you will react to that disease or drug. The real question concerning the intact systems argument is: “Will using a chimpanzee give results that can be applied to you? Will the chimpanzee predict how the drug will affect you? Will the chimpanzee reliably predict how science can cure you of diseases like AIDS and hepatitis C?” The answer to that is unequivocal: No.

Consider the following:

If I told you that we had an animal model that shared 100% of its DNA with you and that it was legal to test new drugs and study diseases on this animal, you might be excited. Excited because this animal would undoubtedly yield results about new drugs and how to combat diseases like AIDS that would be directly applicable to you.

But you would be wrong.

The animal I am referring to is your hypothetical identical twin. Obviously the difference between our hypothetical situation and reality is that society does not use human animals as experimental subjects without their consent, so your identical twin, if you have one, is safe.

But identical twins share 100% of their DNA. According to the Chimpanzee Genome Project, chimpanzees and humans share 96% of their DNA.

At first glance, a 4% difference may not seem like much. In reality, however, chimpanzees are a far greater genetic distance from us than our hypothetical identical twin. Yet physicians have known for decades that identical twins frequently react differently to drugs and suffer from different diseases.

How can that be? The reason lies in the fact that even though identical twins share 100% of their DNA, it does not mean that all the genes they share are turned on, or expressed.

For example, let’s assume identical twin sister #1 attended the University of Vermont and subsequently lived in Vermont for the next twenty years, while twin sister #2 attended UCLA and went on to live in Los Angeles. The sisters would be exposed to different environments which would turn on different genes. Sister #2 might be exposed to an environmental pollutant that eventually caused breast cancer, while sister #1 would never suffer from breast cancer. Same genes—but expressed differently.
The further away from 100% genetic similarity one gets, the worse the predictability becomes. For example, eight out of ten drugs recently withdrawn from the U.S. market were removed from the market because of side effects that occurred predominantly in women—not men. If men are not reliable predictors for women and even identical twins are not reliable predictors for each other, why should we expect a totally different species to reliably predict human response?

Let’s take the same two sisters as another example, with the differences in environment occurring this time in the womb. Twin #1 was exposed to a very slightly different environment (such as different positioning); hence different genes were activated so that she suffered an adverse drug reaction that twin #2 did not.

The further away from 100% genetic similarity one gets, the worse the predictability becomes. For example, eight out of ten drugs recently withdrawn from the U.S. market were removed from the market because of side effects that occurred predominantly in women—not men.

These things really happen, and this is why physicians and scientists are excited by the concept of personalized medicine.

Personalized medicine involves screening for diseases and prescribing medicines for you based on your unique genetic profile. What’s more, your profile would be based not only on which genes you have, but also which genes are turned off and which ones are turned on.

In light of the fact that scientists are now trying to study diseases and prescribe drugs based on individual differences, it’s quite pointless to use a completely different species to study such matters.

Furthermore, the so-called victories from using chimpanzees in research are a facade. The reality of the situation is that chimpanzees have been a dismal failure when used as models of humans. Society should have learned this from the chimpanzee research conducted in the mid 20th century. Between the 1920s and the 1960s, chimpanzees were used to study heart disease, cancer, and the effects of drugs, among other things. These studies were remarkable for the fact that the chimpanzees reacted to drugs and diseases very dissimilarly from humans. Thus they were abandoned for scientific, not ethical reasons.

You would have thought we had learned our lesson. Not so. Scientists went on to spend tens if not hundreds of millions of our precious research dollars attempting to inflict AIDS on chimpanzees only to learn that they do not suffer from AIDS when exposed to HIV. Nor do chimpanzees suffer birth defects when exposed to drugs that do cause birth defects in us, and vice-versa. Furthermore, they do not suffer from hepatitis B, and even though they do get sick when exposed to hepatitis C, the illness is not the same as ours.

Apparently we still have not learned. The most significant differences between human and chimpanzee genomes were found in the brain. Ironically, the vested interests now want to use chimpanzees for research into Alzheimer’s and other diseases of the brain.

If men are not reliable predictors for women and even identical twins are not reliable predictors for each other, why should we expect a totally different species to reliably predict human response? We should not. Wasting money experimenting on chimpanzees is not going to cure diseases like AIDS, cancer, and heart disease.

The information gathered from the chimpanzee genome does not necessitate choosing between chimpanzee- or human-based research. The fact remains chimpanzee-based research and testing is simply ineffective. Human-based research and testing aided by all the new technology available is far more scientifically valid and better suited to finding cures for human diseases than any live intact animal model.

For example, to learn more about Alzheimer’s, society needs to fund research that studies:

- intact living human brains using functional MRI scanners and PET scanners;
- the human brain in autopsies and in vitro research;
- large populations of people in order to find the genes responsible for diseases of the brain and nervous system and to find environmental factors that turn these genes on.

The breakthroughs in infectious disease research such as polio, hepatitis B and C and AIDS have come from culturing the virus in vitro and studying the humans suffering from the disease and the tissues taken from them. Today these traditional methods are combined with genetic analysis of the virus and computer modeling. If we are to cure diseases like AIDS, we will need to use modern reliable research techniques like these.

So if you as an animal advocate are challenged to justify your view on the use of chimpanzees in research by the uninformed or those with a vested interest, tell them about identical twins.
Chimpanzees in the Laboratory and in the Wild

Our attitudes toward chimpanzees have helped shape the overall decline in the use of great apes in research.

The use of chimpanzees in medical research can be traced back 2,000 years to the time of Galen, who studied and dissected nonhuman primates, probably including chimpanzees, and it has continued ever since.

Few people, if anyone, questioned Robert Yerkes when he purchased two chimpanzees in 1923 and began conducting research on them. In the 1950s, the U.S. Air Force started using chimpanzees in space research at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico. In 1960, the U.S. Congress enacted the National Institutes of Health’s Regional Primate Research Centers Program, which eventually led to the over 1,200 chimpanzees that are still used in research today.

It was not until the decades after the 1950s that society’s comfort level with research on chimpanzees began to erode. Jane Goodall began studying chimpanzees in the wild, and the world watched on television as she introduced us to our closest genetic cousins. We saw them grieve when a troop member died, use tools, and demonstrate other characteristics previously thought to be uniquely human.

In 1969, Allan Gardner and Beatrice Gardner published the landmark article “Teaching sign language to a chimpanzee” in Science. The Gardners provided evidence that chimpanzees can learn and communicate with humans in a human language. Roger Fouts continued this work, showing conclusively that chimpanzees can use sign language and teach it to each other—another characteristic previously thought of as uniquely human.

In 1985, partly as a result of Dr. Goodall’s efforts, the United States amended the Animal Welfare Act to include requirements for psychological enrichment of nonhuman primates. Though largely un-enforced even today, the language of the law set a precedent that the psychological experiences of these animals merited consideration.

The evolution of human attitudes continued through the 1990s. In 1997, the United Kingdom banned harmful research on great apes. On January 1, 2000 the New Zealand Animal Welfare Act, which included a provision banning great apes from use in research, testing or teaching, became law. John Luxton, the New Zealand Minister for Food and Fibre, who was responsible for the passage of the bill through Parliament, stated: “This requirement recognizes the advanced cognitive and emotional capacity of great apes. New Zealand is the first country in the world to legislate in this way.”

Also in 2000, the United States passed the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection (CHIMP) Act, which allows for the permanent retirement of chimpanzees no longer needed in research. In 2001, the Netherlands decided to begin phasing out harmful research on chimpanzees. When the European Union’s Biomedical Primate Research Center in Rijswij, The Netherlands, closed its doors, it was the last laboratory in Western Europe using great apes for biomedical research.
Being hunted for meat is now thought to be the greatest threat to many species because the illegal, commercial bush meat trade is decimating entire populations.

Meanwhile, a Zogby International poll conducted in 2001 revealed that 90% of Americans believed it is unacceptable to confine chimpanzees in government-approved cages; 65% found it is unacceptable to kill these animals for research; and 54% believed that it is unacceptable for chimpanzees to “undergo research which causes them to suffer for human benefit.”

Bans on the use of non-human great apes in biomedical research have also been enacted in Japan, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Sweden’s ban goes further than those imposed by the other nations in that it includes the so-called lesser apes—the gibbons and the siamangs. Research on monkeys, including macaques and marmosets, continues throughout the world.

Today, the United States remains the greatest perpetrator of invasive chimpanzee research—at least for now. In the Far East, particularly in China, research institutions are recruiting scientists worldwide with expertise in primate research to staff newer and larger facilities, including possible research on great apes.

The reduced number of chimpanzees and other great apes in the laboratory is certainly reason for hope, but otherwise the situation for the animals’ survival in the wild is grim. A recent United Nations report asserted that every one of the nonhuman great ape species is at high risk of extinction, either in the immediate future or, in best-case scenarios, within 50 years. Chimpanzees bred in captivity are not included on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) list of endangered or threatened populations.

On September 9, 2005, the first Declaration on Great Apes was written in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo at the first meeting of the Council of the Great Apes Survival Project. The meeting examined options such as getting the support of local people and doing more to protect the endangered animals, such as fighting poaching. Over 200 delegates attended, ranging from great ape range state governments, donor and other states to international and intergovernmental organizations, non-government organizations, and representatives of the private sector and academia and scientific communities.

Being hunted for meat is now thought to be the greatest threat to many species because the illegal, commercial bush meat trade is decimating entire populations.

Bush meat—hunting and selling primates for food—is big business. The amount of loss caused by subsistence hunters feeding themselves and their families is minimal compared with the huge numbers of animals slaughtered in a methodical way for sale to wealthy people living in cities. Bush meat is considered a delicacy and fetches correspondingly high prices, much of it for the export market.

A second factor in decimating already endangered great ape populations is the export of live animals to foreign markets.

The corruption, which includes a number of high-ranking government officials, has been “notorious” according to the CITES report, and enforcement action has not been reported even when the abuses were brought to the government’s attention through CITES.

In Cambodia, similar flagrant violations of CITES have been reported, including populating a “Safari World” park with orangutans, despite the failure of the Cambodian government to issue any permits to import the animals.

The CITES Secretariat cited a failure on the part of the majority of CITES parties to submit contact names within their countries for enforcement of international treaty provisions. Only 18 of more than 160 countries had provided this information, despite the circulation of a prepared form to signatories in December 2004.
A New Home for Teresa

Chimp Haven offers a safe and peaceful home for retired chimpanzees.

Teresa came out of the building, hesitated for a moment and moved quickly into the forest. She stopped briefly, glanced back to make certain her friend Rita was nearby, looked up into the blue sky and broke into a run. She was heading quickly towards the water glistening in the distance. Long-suppressed laughter exploded from deep in her soul as she and her companions felt the freedom of nature all around them. Teresa now had the choice to leave concrete behind and spend the day in the forest, in a play yard filled with interesting things to do, or in her bedroom.

At long last she is home, and that home is Chimp Haven.

Located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, on October 28, 2005, Chimp Haven celebrated the tenth year since its incorporation and six months since the arrival of the first 31 resident chimpanzees. By the end of 2006, the organization anticipates a total of 200 chimpanzees will have left research institutions to start new lives at the sanctuary.

For Rita and Teresa, the journey to Chimp Haven has been a long one. Both were imported from Africa as young chimpanzees to serve in the U.S. Air Force space program. Although they were never sent into space, they were part of a very large back-up team.

As they matured, Rita and Teresa went on to live in a biomedical facility. Today they are in their mid-forties and could well have been retired for the past decade, but there was no place for them to go. The research facilities had no alternatives.

Like the journey of Rita and Teresa, the creation of the Chimp Haven sanctuary has also been a long one. For decades, interested people have bemoaned the fact that there was no sufficient alternative for retired research chimpanzees, entertainers or chimpanzees that outgrew a human’s home.

In 1995, Linda Brent, Ph.D., and other concerned professionals in the research community decided to take action. Chimp Haven was incorporated with the mission of providing lifetime care to chimpanzees in need of a species-specific, cost-effective facility geared solely to the well being of the chimpanzees.

Almost simultaneously a group of animal welfare organizations was pushing for the creation of a law that would provide for the retirement of research chimpanzees. The National Anti-Vivisection Society spearheaded the effort that ultimately led to the passage of the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection (CHIMP) Act in 2000. Peggy Cunniff, Executive Director of NAVS, introduced Linda Brent and Linda Koebner, who formed a partnership that gave real strength to Chimp Haven and made it a national organization. After two years of applications and effort, Chimp Haven was selected as the organization to build and operate the national chimpanzee sanctuary system.
Ground was broken on a 200-acre site within a 1,200-acre park far from the city of Shreveport, Louisiana, but close enough to town so that the community embraced its creation. The facility was designed, as most things in the organization, as a cooperative effort. Experts from zoos and laboratories as well as field biologists worked to envision the perfect facility within the pine forest.

Now, in 2005, Phase I of the facility is complete. It is comprised of bedrooms, courtyards, play yards and a clinic for 75 chimpanzees. In addition, the main building also houses the administrative offices, kitchen, enrichment prep area, a food storage building and most importantly, a five-acre habitat that contains over 2,000 trees. The habitat is surrounded by 18-foot high walls with viewing windows and a moat.

It was the water in the moat that was Rita’s destination on June 18, 2005, the first day she and 17 other chimpanzees were able to go out into the forest for the first time. Most behaved as if they had lived in the wild all of their lives. The group started to patrol the entire territory, walking around the habitat in single file or small groups. They had only arrived a few months earlier. Some, like Rita and Teresa, came together. Others came alone, knowing none of the other chimpanzees in the new colony. Some of the chimpanzees had lived in social groups, while others had been housed alone for years.

The first arrivals watched as new chimpanzees came into the sanctuary. Some knew each other from other times in their careers. Lolita and her daughter Sheila were reunited after 15 years apart. They took it in stride, though clearly recognizing each other. It was the humans who watched the reunion with damp eyes.

The introductions, monitored by the professional staff at Chimp Haven, took place slowly and carefully. Using common sense and years of experience with chimpanzees, the groups grew from two, to three, to four and so on until one group of 18 individuals, including 7 adult males, was formed.

The transition went easily, much more easily than most would have expected. When the chimpanzees first arrived, they were hesitant, not knowing where they were this time…another move, what would happen, what would the routine be here in this facility? As days passed, they visibly relaxed, lounged in their outdoor hammocks, enjoyed the banana smoothies and began to play.

One of the most heartwarming moments came when a group of four old timers, including 53-year-old Grandma, sat in a circle tickling and laughing, leaning into one another and jostling as if to say, “Hey, we made it…and ain’t it grand!”

The success of the undertaking in such a short period of time is due to several factors. Of great importance is the fact that the facility was well designed. It provides lots of space for the chimpanzees, who now have no demands placed on them.

Chimp Haven was incorporated with the mission of providing lifetime care to chimpanzees in need of a species-specific, cost-effective facility geared solely to the well being of the chimpanzees.

Lolita, a 46-year-old female chimp, and Rita, a 41-year-old female chimp, share a quick embrace. Both are wild-born chimpanzees and are retired to Chimp Haven, a 200-acre sanctuary located in Northwest Louisiana. (Photo by Amy Fultz, ©Chimp Haven 2005)

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and above all else, Chimp Haven has an excellent staff.

Twenty four professionals have come to Louisiana from all around the country to embrace their dream job, accepting the challenge of providing the best care in their field of expertise—veterinary medicine, enrichment, behavior, care giving, bookkeeping, fund raising or public relations. The goal is the same, “The chimps come first.”

The chimpanzees spend their days however they like. They have free access to the bedrooms, play yards or habitat. A few of the chimpanzees suffer the same problems associated with human aging, and so Grandpa with his arthritis and Gwennie with back problems will most likely not go out into the woods, which would be more challenging than comfortable for them. They have a space that suits their retirement and as much or as little as they care to do.

For all of the chimpanzees, the days are definitely not boring. They enjoy enrichment of body and mind, such as challenging feeders, mirrors which they use to check their teeth or to look at body parts they otherwise could not see.

Of course there is also Augusta, who has been known to admire herself for hours. Best of all is the natural enrichment of the forest and the company of other chimpanzees. Chimpanzees need chimpanzees.

Most of the chimpanzees eagerly entered the habitat and were soon exploring the forest and expanding on their new relationships.

Every day we see their politics in action. Will Conan become the dominant male in the group? Will Rita and Teresa remain such close friends, or will they find the company of other females more inviting?
What about Merv? Will she finally leave the security of the night quarters and venture out into the forest? Like Juan, Merv is not yet comfortable with the great outdoors and stays close to the building where there is concrete, the surface they have both known all of their lives. When Lolita first went outside into the play yards, she clung to the wire, inching her way around the enclosure, like a little girl with ice skates on for the first time. Conan is moving about, but he is still afraid to go into the woods, so when Jimoh takes Gay for a dalliance, he can only sit on the edge of the forest and cry.

For all of them, every day they find greater comfort and take small steps to be with the larger group, as they explore their new home. There is no hurry…….they will not be leaving Chimp Haven.

We look forward to seeing how and if the wild-born chimpanzees like Rita will teach those born in the laboratory how to build nests, make and use tools and maneuver in a more complex chimpanzee world. We are already seeing some of that take place. Several nests have been found in the woods, and the chimpanzees are beginning to climb trees—mostly in search of the elm leaves they love to eat. We are getting to know the chimpanzees well, and with the help of students from universities around the country, we will be able to document their progress.

With the completion of Phase I and the beginnings of Chimp Haven’s educational complex underway (which requires private funding) we are also under construction of Phase II. This complex will become home to an additional 150 chimpanzees…perhaps even more. Construction costs have soared, leaving over two million dollars of unexpected expense to be paid by Chimp Haven.

As we look to find the support, the chimpanzees wait in the laboratories. They have been selected to go to Chimp Haven, but they cannot travel to the sanctuary until their space is complete. It is because NAVS’ generous supporters understood the need for Chimp Haven and granted the organization seed money almost a decade ago that the organization gained a strong enough foothold to become what it is today. We hope you will be proud of what you have helped to build, and share in Teresa’s joy with her new home. We are rejoicing because her years of serving humankind have now been traded for sunshine, tall trees and the company of other chimpanzees. 😊

Sara, a 20-year-old female chimpanzee, gathers food from her home at Chimp Haven. Sara is in a group of 18 chimpanzees in the first 5-acre habitat at Chimp Haven, a retirement sanctuary for chimpanzees retired from biomedical research. (Photo by Amy Fultz, ©Chimp Haven 2005)

YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

Since 1929 NAVS has been dedicated to ending the use of all animals in research, education and product testing. But in recognition of the need to care for animals in emergency situations and the willingness of our donors to support it, NAVS established a Sanctuary Fund to provide critical assistance for animals in need today. NAVS’ generous support of Chimp Haven was based on the need for a place for chimpanzees to go when they could be “retired” from research and the unique opportunity to create a special sanctuary that would benefit from government funding as well as private donations.

NAVS supporters have been extraordinarily generous in supporting this effort. But the need did not end with getting chimpanzees out of research facilities. The costs of daily care as well as the urgency of providing a potential safe haven for hundreds more chimpanzees mean that your help is still urgently needed.

Please consider a thoughtful gift to Chimp Haven, 710 Spring Street, 2nd Floor, Shreveport, LA 71101 USA. Or send it in care of NAVS’ Sanctuary Fund in the enclosed envelope.
Making the Case for Animal Law

Representatives of NAVS and IIAL hold court at the annual meeting of the American Bar Association.

The National Anti-Vivisection Society and the International Institute for Animal Law were greeted with enthusiasm at the annual meeting of the American Bar Association this past August in Chicago, where our exhibit was the only one to promote animal law. The exhibit was a tremendous opportunity to reach out to more than 10,000 attorneys in attendance with a new brochure featuring the website Animallaw.com, as well as information regarding the availability of animal law publications.

Response was very positive, with hundreds of practitioners and judges stopping by to discuss recent developments, ask questions about the two organizations, and exchange stories from their personal and professional lives regarding animal issues. This was also the first year that a seminar on animal law was presented by the newly-formed ABA animal law committee.

Why is promoting animal law important in advocating against the use of animals for vivisection? Lawyers play a critical role in drafting, passing and enforcing laws in this country. While not all legislators are attorneys, targeting the legal community with educational efforts on the status of animals has proven to be an effective tool in opening doors for change. Lawyers have played a key role in every social movement, and the movement to incorporate compassion and justice for animals in decisions regarding their use by society relies on support from the legal community to achieve its goals.

With your support, NAVS will continue to provide educational resources and support to make the legal and legislative arenas more receptive to protecting the interests of animals in our society.

Looking for the perfect holiday gift?

Share the virtue of compassion with a copy of Personal Care for People Who Care.

Our 200-page guide makes the perfect stocking stuffer, hostess gift, or grab bag gift. It’s a great idea for the people on your list who love animals and want to do something to demonstrate their concern. And you’ll enjoy spreading peace and good will to those you care about…and the animals too.

To order Personal Care for People Who Care, you can log onto our website at www.navs.org, call us at 800-888-NAVS (800-888-6287) or return the donation form on page 15. All orders are sent first class mail. Please order soon to ensure that you will receive your books when you need them.
Sound off!

Members ring in on why they joined NAVS and the struggle to end animal experimentation.

Recently we asked our supporters to tell us why they joined NAVS, and we were delighted to receive a multitude of responses. It was truly gratifying to know the depth of compassion that NAVS members feel for animals. You are all an inspiration to us!

The Internet has proven to be a tremendous tool for us to communicate with you, our valuable members and donors. We encourage you all to open a dialogue with us about what’s on your mind, what you’d like to see NAVS doing, and how we can help you become a more informed and effective advocate. Just visit our website at www.navs.org and click on “Contact Us.”

Meanwhile, we'd like to share with you some of the poignant and inspiring comments we received. And keep those emails coming! We love to hear from you.

“Twenty years ago, I entered the field of medical research to try to make a difference in a field where pain and suffering is the norm. I’ve worked with several species from mice to monkeys, and I still come home feeling that I’ve lost a friend each day. I am now going into veterinary medicine so that I can make a difference. In the meantime, I need NAVS to make that difference for me.”

“I joined your worthy organization because you speak to my soul. Over the years, NAVS has provided me with the materials to speak out for animals whenever I get the chance. Organizations like NAVS provide solace to people like myself who sometimes feel overwhelmed by the callousness of human beings toward animals that we see every day.”

“The reason I contribute to NAVS is I believe every creature God created feels pain, has emotions, and in its own way, thinks. I also believe life is sacred and that we humans have no right to sacrifice any living creature for research or any other reason.”

“I support organizations like NAVS for what you do and what you stand for. I always say to people that true leadership is not just what a person stands for, but more importantly, what they won’t stand for. And I won’t stand for any type of cruelty to animals. I will remain a voice for the voiceless as long as I can speak.”

“Until recently, I was not sure why I was ‘here’ on this earth, but now I know. My purpose is to set an example for others so they may see people can exist and thrive happily with animals alongside without pain and suffering to either.”
WINDS OF CHANGE

By Clare Haggarty
Director of Programs and Communications

The devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has spawned a new awareness of the plight of animals in disasters.

The NAVS Sanctuary Fund was established in 1998 to provide immediate assistance to animal victims of natural and human-made disasters. At the time, none of us could have imagined the two disasters that would challenge all of us to new levels—Katrina and Rita. Fortunately, the NAVS Sanctuary Fund was there to help. What we found in our search to find worthy organizations that needed help the most was heartbreaking, disturbing, inspiring and hopeful—all at the same time.

The NAVS staff spent countless hours trying to find groups that needed our help the most and would make the most effective use of our funds. In the end, four organizations benefited from your generosity and compassion through NAVS Sanctuary Fund grants. Although we do not have any photos of animals that have been rescued as a result of the Sanctuary Fund grants, we trust you have seen the TV and newspaper accounts of animals on rooftops and paddling through flood waters. Instead, in this issue of the Animal Action Report, we’d like to share with you what happened, and, ironically, the good that we fervently hope will come from it.

First, let’s talk about the groups who received grants.

Lafayette Animal Aid (Caren Cro, LA) is a dedicated small shelter with about 20 volunteers who worked round-the-clock to take in dogs and cats in the wake of both hurricanes. They worked not only in their home parish of Lafayette, but also in neighboring parishes to rescue strays left outside to starve. The animals are injured, not neutered, and many, if not all, of the dogs have heartworm. Although not a single animal taken in has been reclaimed, they will all be neutered, checked by a veterinarian and put up for

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Create your own legacy of compassion.

Even as the holidays are upon us, it’s almost time to think about New Year’s resolutions. The New Year is a good time to reflect and establish goals for the future. For caring individuals who have extended their circle of compassion to include all living creatures, one of those goals may be to establish a legacy that will help organizations who share their concerns to carry on their work.

A gift to NAVS as part of your estate planning allows you to do what few other charities can offer: the chance to help all who you have embraced within your circle of compassion, including people and animals.

Through a charitable gift to NAVS, you’ll be helping animals and people, and playing a crucial role in ensuring that our future is one where no animal suffers under the false pretense that it benefits human health. In the meantime, an estate planning program may benefit you in terms of tax advantages. We recommend that you consult your estate planning professional for the best ways you may be able to give…and save on taxes at the same time. Estate planning may include gifts of cash, as well as gifts of stock, real estate and life insurance. You may also wish to ask your estate planning professional about life income gifts.

We thank you in advance for considering a gift to NAVS as part of your estate planning. If you would like more information about how you can remember NAVS in this way, please contact us for your free copy of “A Legacy of Compassion,” an informative booklet we’ve prepared that provides an introduction to this very important subject.

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The NAVS Sanctuary Fund will help cover the cost of transporting those animals who have not been reclaimed to states with shelters that are willing to find them permanent homes.

**WINDS OF CHANGE**  
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adoption. The NAVS Sanctuary Fund grant will help cover the cost of veterinary care for these animals, most of whom have never before seen a vet.

The Humane Society of Southern Mississippi (Gulfport, MS) was completely destroyed by Katrina. Its animals were sent to emergency shelters and are now being returned to the new shelter that was not scheduled to be open for six months. Many of the animals coming to HSSM are companion animals who have either been owner surrendered or act like they have been inside homes their entire lives. They were left behind. After the initial 30-day holding period, these animals are being transported by the “Love Train” to states around the country, including New York, Virginia and Florida, where they will be adopted into loving homes. The NAVS Sanctuary Fund will help cover the cost of transporting animals on the Love Train.

Pasado's Safe Haven (Monroe, WA) sent 20 volunteers to Louisiana to help rescue animals left in the wake of the storm. They located a farm south of New Orleans with an empty barn whose owners opened its door to them. In one month, Pasado's volunteers saved over 1,200 animals, who, after being shipped to permanent shelters in Louisiana, will travel to other states to be adopted after the 30-days holding period. The NAVS Sanctuary Fund will help cover the huge cost of medical supplies and veterinary care that helped give these animals a new lease on life.

The Houston SPCA took in over 1,500 animals left behind from Hurricane Katrina and were filled “to the max” with companion animals that were brought by their human evacuees to the Houston Astrodome. The NAVS Sanctuary Fund will help cover the cost of transporting those animals who have not been reclaimed to states with shelters that are willing to find them permanent homes. The fact that we awarded a grant to such a large organization may give some of our members and supporters some pause. But we hope you consider that we felt it was important to also help groups that had the knowledge, experience and wherewithal to save large numbers of animals.

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Thank you in advance for your additional donation, which will help us continue the life-saving programs described in this issue of the *Animal Action Report*. We appreciate your generosity. Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

- Please accept my additional gift to sponsor NAVS’ educational and advocacy programs. Enclosed is $____________________
- Please accept my additional gift in support of the NAVS Sanctuary Fund. Enclosed is $____________________
- Please send me copies of *Personal Care for People Who Care* at a TOTAL cost (including first class postage and handling) of $13.50. Enclosed is $____________________
- Check here if you wish to receive additional information on how you can enjoy the convenience of having a monthly donation to NAVS debited from your checking or savings account. Please go to [www.navs.org](http://www.navs.org) if you wish to make a monthly donation via your credit card.

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- VISA
- MasterCard
- Discover
- AmEx

Account Number ____________________________
Exp. Date ________________ Name ____________________________
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Today’s date ________________ Daytime Telephone Number ____________________________
E-mail address ____________________________

**PLEASE MAKE NAME AND/OR ADDRESS CORRECTIONS ON THE REVERSE SIDE.**

Make your check payable to NAVS and return it in the envelope provided.
Or mail to: NAVS, 3071 Paysphere Circle, Chicago, IL 60674-0030.

You may also join NAVS (with a donation of $40 or more) or provide an additional gift to NAVS and the NAVS Sanctuary Fund through our website at [www.navs.org](http://www.navs.org)

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**STATE CHARITABLE REGISTRATIONS**

The address and telephone number of the National Anti-Vivisection Society may be found on page 13. You may obtain a copy of NAVS’ annual financial report by writing to us. In addition, residents of the following states can receive copies as follows. In Arizona: A copy of the official registration may be obtained from the Secretary of State, State of Arizona, State Capitol, 1700 West Washington 7th Floor, Phoenix, AZ 85007-2808 or by calling toll-free 800-458-5842. In California: A copy of the official financial statement may be obtained from the Attorney General’s Registry of Charitable Trusts, Department of Justice, P.O. Box 903447, Sacramento, CA 94203-4470 or by calling 916-445-2021. In Los Angeles: Information card on file with Los Angeles Police Commission. In Florida: A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION (#SC-03423) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352, WITHIN THE STATE. In Kansas: Kansas registration number is available upon request. A copy of the financial report is on file with the Kansas Secretary of State’s Office, Capitol - 2nd Floor, Topeka, KS 66612. In Maryland: Upon request, Maryland residents may obtain a copy of the current financial statement of the charity from the Secretary of State’s Office, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 or from the charity directly. In Michigan: The charity’s Michigan registration number is available upon request. In New Jersey: INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 201-504-6215. In New York: Upon request the latest annual report may be obtained from the charity directly by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the charity’s address or by writing to the Office of Charities Registration, Department of State, 162 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12231. In North Carolina: A COPY OF THE LICENSE TO SOLICIT CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AS A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION OR SPONSOR AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE LICENSE AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE SOLICITOR MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH, BY CALLING (919) 733-4510. In Pennsylvania: A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 800-732-0999. In Virginia: A financial statement is available from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209 or by calling 804-786-1343. In Washington: Financial information is available from the Secretary of State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-9000. In West Virginia: Residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. In Wisconsin: A copy of the charity’s financial statement disclosing assets, liabilities, fund balances, revenue, and expenses for the preceding fiscal year will be provided upon request by writing to the charity’s name and address. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.
In the wake of these hurricanes, federal legislation has been introduced that would mandate state and local authorities to have plans in place for the evacuation of animals in a disaster. According to a bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, local and state emergency preparedness authorities will have to include in their evacuation plans how they will accommodate household pets or service animals in case of disasters. The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act, H.R. 3858) will require local and state authorities to submit these plans in order to qualify for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). For more information on the PETS Act, go to www.navs.org and click on “Federal bill recognizes importance of companion animals in disasters.”

As Tara High, president and Acting Executive Director of the Humane Society of Southern Mississippi, told us, “This storm was a real wake-up call for our community. We need to get our animals micro-chipped, neutered and vaccinated. The Humane Society of Southern Mississippi will now commit itself to ensuring that the animals in Gulfport never go through anything like this again.”

Likewise, Alice Sarmiento, Director of Development for the Houston SPCA, says that another effect of Katrina and Rita is that “strays are no longer strays.” Many of the animals taken in by shelters were not lost or abandoned companions but strays who did not have a home to begin with. In a strange way, the storms that took so many lives actually gave others a chance at a safe and happy life.

We will continue to keep you informed of how the Gulf Coast shelters are managing as they begin to rebuild. The NAVS Sanctuary Fund grant recipients have done an extraordinary job in rescuing animals from suffering and death. Please know that your compassion and generosity reached them, so they could help the innocent animals most in need. And it made all the difference in the world. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. 🔝