From Vision to Reality
Making the dream of a better, more humane science come true.

It’s a challenge to keep from being frustrated when every day we are confronted with the knowledge that millions of animals continue to suffer in laboratories as research subjects—even while it is increasingly acknowledged that animal-based research is a hopelessly flawed method of investigation. To think about the pain, fear, and distress each animal is forced to endure, and then multiply it by the millions can be overwhelming.

As animal advocates, we believe that the life of every single one of these animals matters, and that their suffering is unacceptable. We know that there is a better way to conduct scientific research than to confine animals in a laboratory setting, isolate them from others of their own kind, and manipulate their bodies in an attempt to mimic human disease.

Confronted with this systematic exploitation of innocent creatures, many animal advocates refuse to purchase products that have been tested on animals. Some take a public stand in protest outside research facilities. Still others write their congressional representatives and letters to the editor of their local newspapers. All these actions—and many more—are shining a light on the flawed and outdated practice of animal experimentation. Every day, more people from all walks of life are beginning to ask the question, “Why?”

As the debate over animal experimentation heats up, NAVS is committed to promoting the concept of better, more humane science through the elimination of animal experimentation. We do this in a variety of ways, and in this issue of the Animal Action Report, we’re highlighting some of them. These include our efforts to work with the scientific community in developing, validating and implementing alternatives to animal tests through our support of the International Foundation for Ethical Research. You’ll also read about our ongoing efforts in reaching out to the next generation of scientists through our participation in high school science fairs and conferences. And Dr. Ray Greek, a NAVS Science Advisor, shares the perspective of the young scientists he meets in his travels. For an historical perspective on the issue, Dr. June Bradlaw, another NAVS Science Advisor and Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board of the International Foundation for Ethical Research, talks about the difficulties of challenging the status quo of using animals in toxicity testing.

As you will see, NAVS is investing the time and resources to make science better and more humane. Thanks to your support, we are making progress, and you can be rest assured that we are carrying on the struggle to eliminate animal experimentation, with a heightened sense of urgency, knowing that progress can never come quickly enough. So, with all of our generous supporters at our side, we will continue to “walk the walk.” In the meantime, we hope you find this edition of the Animal Action Report both informative and illuminating.
We are fortunate to live in times when technology can be harnessed so effectively for the greater good. Today, the Internet gives us the power to create an on-line community for better, speedier communications, improved cost-effectiveness…and, most importantly, greater power to advocate for animals.

That’s why the recent launch of our new website—www.navs.org—is such a notable event. If you have visited our website in recent weeks, you no doubt have noticed that we have improved it to better serve you, the animals, students, the general public and scientists more effectively. Now, we have more information, easier navigation than ever before, and exciting new ways that help you advocate for animals. It’s all about action, action, action for animals—with just the click of your mouse!

Keeping up with your support of NAVS is easier than ever too—because you can do that through the website. You can join NAVS, renew your membership, make a donation, participate in our monthly giving program, or make a donation in memory of a loved one or as a tribute to an animal or person—just by going to the Support Us section.

Educate yourself on the issue…at your own pace.

While the general content of our website remains the same, we’ve organized the material to make it easier for you to learn as much about a particular topic as you want. As before, we concentrate on animals in product testing, education and research, but each section has been expanded with more information.

In fact, the Animals in Scientific Research section now contains the best, most authoritative information on the web as to why animals should not be used in research.

Of course, we know that a discussion of the scientific case against animal experimentation, with many unfamiliar terms and concepts, can be daunting for many readers. That’s why we’ve designed the Animals in Scientific Research section in a way that lets you delve into the subject as much or as little as you want. It starts out with a very basic discussion, but just click on the highlighted words and phrases and you’ll arrive at a more in-depth discussion. Then click again if you want to go even deeper.

Get in on the action…for animals!

One of the most exciting new features of our new website is the Advocacy Center. This is where you can make a difference for animals with just the click of a mouse. The Advocacy Center shows all the “hot” issues that call for your attention, and it’s constantly being updated with news you’ll want to act on.

Best of all, it’s easier than ever to take action. No longer will you have to take the time to compose a letter—we’ve done it for you! For each issue, we’ve composed the core of an e-letter addressed to your congressional representative, with the
option for you to add a personal message. (By adding your own message, you'll be personalizing the letter, and thus increasing the chances that it will be noted.) Then just click on "send" and the letter goes directly to your elected officials.

Not only that, when you take action by writing a letter, you will be prompted to tell a friend. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to urge your friends and associates to take action as well.

Because this is such a fast, easy and convenient way for animal advocates to voice their opinion, think of how many more people will write to their congressional representatives…and how much more powerful our message for animals will be!

Also, don't forget to check in on the Advocacy Center frequently, because we're always adding new animal issues that need your attention.

**Be part of the in-crowd with our Supporters Only section.**

Our newly revamped website is packed with new features and interactive opportunities—and we're not even done yet! Soon to come is our Supporters Only section, which will be available only to active NAVS supporters. In this section, you'll find more information and articles, as well as past and current issues of the *Animal Action Report*.

It's all there for you, and for the animals. So please visit us soon at [www.navs.org](http://www.navs.org).

See you in cyberspace!

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**Join our on-line community of animal advocates!**

**Register on our website today.**

By registering on the NAVS website, you'll be joining one of the most active and influential on-line communities of animal advocates anywhere. And it's so easy, too, right from our home page.

All you have to do is provide us with your name, e-mail address, city, state and zip, and your specific areas of interest.

Once you register, the site welcomes you back whenever you visit, and you can even customize the information you want to receive from us. You can get e-blasts just on product testing, just on education, just on research—or on all areas.

In the months to come, we will also have the ability to customize the NAVS homepage to reflect your interests based on the information that you've given us. So, if you are really interested in product testing and you let us know that in your registration profile, the NAVS homepage will be all about product testing (and updated regularly) whenever you visit.

Why is registering on our website so important? First and foremost, it allows us to send you e-blasts on a moment's notice, which allows you to take action faster and make sure your voice is heard. Additionally, sending e-blasts helps us save the costs of printing and mailing, which frees up funds to use for helping animals more directly.

And don't worry about your e-mail address falling into the wrong hands. NAVS does not sell or exchange e-mail addresses. So your e-mail address is completely safe and confidential with us.

Even if you don't register on the website, we still need your e-mail address. This allows NAVS to communicate with you faster and more cost-effectively. With such little time to react to the many issues that come up involving animal experimentation, it's critically important that we have a way to instantly get information out to you, so you can act in a timely manner. Obviously, e-mailing is the best way possible.

So please, please give us your e-mail address, either by registering on-line at [www.navs.org](http://www.navs.org), or by providing it to us on the donor form. Or if you prefer, you can call us at 800-888-NAVS. However you do it, please don't delay. Make the connection today—by giving us your e-mail address. 🌐
Encouraging a New Generation of Innovative Scientists

NAVS expands efforts to reach students with the concept of humane science.

Here at NAVS, we are always looking to the future for hope that we will see a time when no animals are exploited in the name of science. That hope, we believe, is in the next generation of scientists. The science-minded students of today will be the researchers of tomorrow, and it is vitally important that we reach them with our message that there is a better way to advance scientific knowledge than by using animals.

That’s why we are spending time and resources to sponsor Humane Science awards at high school science fairs…and this effort is paying real dividends. By participating as a sponsor in major science fairs, NAVS has sparked the attention of students and administrators alike. Now, students who have only heard the message from their local mentors and sponsors that animal research is a necessary step in the process of conducting biomedical research are seeing for themselves that better, more humane ways to conduct science are being acknowledged and rewarded.

Through our humane science awards at science fairs, NAVS has a chance to clearly demonstrate our commitment to encouraging and supporting the participation of students in science fairs whose projects involve using methodologies that do not rely on the animal model. Gaining such visibility at these events is a highly effective way to reach some of the most gifted students, their mentors, and other members of the scientific community.

Why are science fairs so important? The institution of science fairs serves as a way of putting students in touch with scientists, data and equipment that may not otherwise be available to them in their school science labs. And it allows the scientific community to tap into the finest young scientific minds through mentoring programs, recruitment, and prizes offered at local and regional competitions. For us, it allows us to reach the next generation of scientists at a critical time in their careers.

As our long-time supporters are well aware, NAVS has been monitoring the use of animals in science fairs for more than a decade. However, until 2001, our participation was limited to attending the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) on public days and reporting on the number of invasive animal experiments exhibited that year. Our efforts to meet with organizers of Intel ISEF were ignored and our message was falling on deaf ears.

After initiating a shareholders’ resolution with the Intel Corporation to change the rules of the science fair competition to prohibit giving prizes to projects that caused harm to animals, NAVS successfully negotiated a unique intervention that allowed NAVS to participate in the science fair process through the NAVS Humane Science awards.

Since the establishment of the Intel ISEF Humane Science Award, NAVS has gained credibility as a resource for non-animal based research among students, and has been recognized as a partner in promoting science education by groups such as the American Academy for the Advancement of Sciences, the American Mathematical Society and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Foundation. The Humane Science Award is sought after by...
students and has gained the attention and respect of organizations that have historically promoted animal research.

This year, NAVS is stepping up its efforts to impact the way students view science and the methodologies used in creating and executing a science fair project. For the first time, NAVS is participating as a sponsor of the American Junior Academy of Sciences conference in St. Louis, Missouri, which brings together high school students who excelled at their local and state science fairs for an opportunity to meet their peers and learn from experts in many areas of science.

This conference is not a typical science fair, with project displays and awards at the end. Instead, it is a coming together of future scientists, giving them an opportunity to work together with other students in a series of scientific programs and events that will help shape their futures. The Junior Academy of Sciences operates independently in many states, and winners may be nominated to participate in the American Junior Academy of Sciences conference.

NAVS will have the opportunity to reach out to another elite group of young scientists by sponsoring a Humane Science award at this year's conference of the Illinois Junior Academy of Sciences, which will be held in May at the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana. We look forward to announcing the winner of the award in a future issue of the Animal Action Report.

A VIEW TO THE FUTURE

What the scientists of tomorrow are saying about animal research today.

Dr. Ray Greek, NAVS Science Advisor

In my travels on behalf of AFMA (Americans For Medical Advancement) and NAVS, I frequently have the opportunity to speak with students who are studying for advanced degrees in the medical sciences. It is gratifying to see that for many of these students, the idea of using animals in research and drug development does not even cross their minds. These young scientists, with long and fruitful careers ahead of them, understand fully the futility of using an animal to make a reliable prediction for a human. Furthermore, they are keenly aware of the myriad of non-animal research modalities that accurately predict human response.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a high school science fair, and the projects I saw were truly impressive. This was an event where high school students were using DNA from humans to determine if a particular gene was involved in cancer. Others were using computers to enable people suffering from paralysis to move objects. And I’m talking about 10th and 11th graders! These are the young people who will be the top scientists of tomorrow.

I recall one scientific conference attended by researchers, pharmaceutical companies, and biotech entrepreneurs, where most of the exhibits and lectures focused on personalized medicine—the ability of your doctor to someday take your genetic profile and predict what diseases you will be susceptible to as well as which treatments will work best for you. When I brought up the idea of using animals as predictive models to the exhibitors and speakers, they simply laughed! One individual said it best when he remarked, “The paradigm of using animals has died but has not yet been buried.”

Entrepreneurs who are developing and marketing cutting edge health care products and equipment agree. And venture capitalists I’ve spoken to say that they routinely reject proposals for products and procedures based on animal data.

The type of research that NAVS funds and rewards is the kind of research that these experts—young, dynamic individuals who are just beginning to make their mark on their chosen field—recognize as the vision for tomorrow.

While NAVS has a very small amount of money each year to give to students and scientists when compared to the vast funds of the National Institutes for Health, we know that those projects supported by NAVS are the kind that will change the world for the better. Like a small rock tossed into a pond, research supported by NAVS and students rewarded for projects that don't use animals will have a tremendous ripple effect throughout the scientific community. And just as the ripple expands across the entire pond, there will come a day when the vision for tomorrow will become a reality.

For more on the scientifically reliable non-animal research methods available today, see What Will We Use If We Don’t Use Animals? by Greek and Greek.
Investing in the Future

IFER’s support of the development of alternatives will bring huge returns in better, more humane science.

Those of us who work for better treatment of animals are often asked, “Where is the progress? Are things getting better for animals?” Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to measure progress in the sheer numbers of animals currently being used, since, under the current provisions of the Animal Welfare Act, scientists are not required to count rodents, the most commonly used species in research.

While we cannot necessarily quantify progress in these numbers, we can point to other numbers that are encouraging.

Consider that a decade ago, most scientists hardly ever addressed the ethics of using animals in research, believing that animals were incapable of suffering because they were not “self-aware.” Today, however, the ethics involving animal research is a frequent topic of articles in scientific journals.

Anti-vivisectionists were once dismissed as “anti-science” and misguided zealots who cared more about animals than people. Today, there are more animal advocacy organizations than ever before, as well as increasing numbers of people who support them. What’s more, animal issues are receiving greater visibility in the media.

Perhaps the most significant beacon of progress has been the development and implementation of non-animal alternatives. In 1985—four years before James B. Wyngaarden, the former director of the National Institutes of Health, was quoted as saying that “research should not be hampered by moral considerations”—NAVS took the extraordinary step of joining with some remarkable scientists from academia, industry and government to initiate a revolutionary solution to end the use of animals in science and education.

Frustrated with the inadequacies of animal models as a scientific methodology and building on the compelling ethical objections to exploiting animals, these leaders had the foresight to establish the International Foundation for Ethical Research (IFER) based on a simple premise: there had to be a better way.

Building on what had been a little recognized book, Principles of Humane
Experimental Technique, published in 1959 by two British scientists, William Russell and Rex Burch, NAVS found the common language that facilitated communication between scientists and animal advocates. IFER adopted what has become known as the 3 R’s approach – Replacement of animals as a model with a scientifically valid substitute for current live animal methodologies, Reduction in the number of animals used while enhancing the yield of information, and Refinement of the experimental procedures to improve the optimal well-being of animals used in research.

IFER has set the replacement of animal use as its area of priority and from its beginnings in 1985 incorporated a 4th R to its mission – Responsibility. This 4th R is what has distinguished IFER from other funding and advocacy groups concerned with alternatives. Responsibility has meant the re-evaluation of the course science is taking with animal models; the recognition of society’s heightened awareness of the use of animals in research, product testing and education; the development of new methodologies; the implementation of new technologies; and the furthering of personal accountability.

Thanks in large part to the generous support of NAVS, the investment in promoting scientifically viable alternatives to the use of animals has contributed to important progress. In the two decades since its founding, IFER has provided critical financial support for the development, validation and implementation of alternatives and sponsored conferences to disseminate information on these scientific innovations.

The grants that IFER has provided to scientists have funded a wide array of scientific advancements and dramatically reduced and/or replaced the use of animals. In just over 20 years, an important milestone has been reached—IFER has invested over one million dollars in this endeavor. To ensure that grant monies are put to the best possible use, IFER has assembled a distinguished group of dedicated scientists to serve on its Scientific Advisory Board.

Grants have been used to make advancements in in vitro toxicology that have helped to replace the Draize eye and skin irritation tests. Replacing these tests has saved countless rabbits and other animals from exposure to these painful practices. These advancements also laid the basis for the development of artificial skin that has been used as a successful treatment for burn victims.

IFER has also supported the development of computer technology to simulate kidney structure and function for training medical students, an in vitro project for studying spinal cord injuries, and the creation of an artificial stomach for teaching suturing skills for surgeons. IFER contributed funds to a study that demonstrated the impressive performance of graduate students using interactive videos instead of live animals in a lab and to the development of non-invasive methodologies to study wildlife.

IFER’s grant recipients have conducted research on numerous diseases from cancer to Leishmaniasis (a disfiguring disease found in tropical and subtropical areas of the world, which is especially devastating to children). In addition to funding...
development of these alternatives, IFER has sponsored numerous conferences and workshops to advance awareness of these scientific innovations and to promote standard best practices of new methodologies for validation by regulatory agencies and implementation by the relevant industries.

It is important to note, however, that while these achievements have demonstrated that scientifically viable alternatives to the use of animals are possible, IFER’s ability to fund such projects is a readily acknowledged “drop in the bucket” compared with the funding resources of government, university and private research laboratories. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget for 2006, for example, is $28.6 billion. For reasons such as this, while progress is being made, it is at a painfully slow pace.

In Europe, where the promotion of alternative methods has been more successful than in the U.S., the number of animals used in research actually rose by 2.1% from 2003 to 2004, due primarily to the use of genetically engineered animals. Thankfully, the European Commission and industry associations agreed to reduce the number of animals used for research, toxicology and quality control of health products from 11 million a year to 9 million by 2007.

Additional hurdles such as getting governmental regulatory bodies to commit to developing and validating alternative methods or even to agree to implement existing alternatives have made changes come at glacial speed. Another fundamental problem has been determining the standards that alternatives have to meet to be validated. This is a frustrating reality when the currently used animal tests have never been validated and are known to be inadequate in predicting responses in humans.

To meet these challenges, IFER has recently proposed the addition of 3 A’s to be considered along with Replacement, Reduction and Refinement. The 3 R’s have addressed the animal welfare concerns with vivisection. To better ensure that the development, validation and implementation of alternatives contribute to the progress of scientific endeavors, IFER has proposed Accuracy, Accountability, and Advancement.

Building on its 4th R of Responsibility, IFER will advance alternatives that are accurate in predicting human response and that are useful for medical research and drug testing, not that simply duplicate the responses from animal tests. IFER will continue to work with NAVS and organizations like Americans For Medical Advancement (AFMA) to hold those who continue to defend the reliability of animal models accountable. And IFER will continue to support the innovations and technologies that advance science and will lead to cures for human health problems.

In the continuing debate between those who defend vivisection and those who promote science without the use of animals, we have often been asked, “Who would you save on a sinking ship – your child or your dog?” IFER will continue to challenge the establishment to stop throwing dogs and other animals overboard and start developing real “life jackets” for people by advancing better, more humane science.

IFER will continue to invest in the development and use of alternatives. To learn more about how you, too, may contribute to this investment in the advancement of science that does not harm animals, please visit our website at: www.ifer.org.
Profile of an Ethical Scientist

Dr. June Bradlaw: Champion for Better, More Humane Science

Some recent articles in scientific journals have referenced the fact that recent public opinion polls show that the public’s view of scientists reflect the typical stereotype of a “mad” scientist—brilliantly mad, cruel and out of touch with humanity. Not a flattering portrait, to say the least. What’s more, some animal advocates have embellished the stereotype by portraying scientists as unethical, fraudulent and “torturers” of innocent animal victims.

In marked contrast to these nightmarish images stands Dr. June Bradlaw, chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board of the International Foundation for Ethical Research (IFER) and a Science Advisor to the National Anti-Vivisection Society.

In 2001 Dr. June Bradlaw was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Society for In Vitro Biology as “…the highest honor given by the Society to scientists who are considered pioneers or highly influential researchers in the science and art of cell culture.”

Dr. Bradlaw recently shared some of the challenges she confronted as one scientist who dared to question the way things “have always been done.” She also explains how she works with both animal advocates and scientists.

Dr. Bradlaw, how did you first become involved in alternatives to using animals?

In 1975 while working as a scientist at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), I proposed that the Division of Toxicology develop methods using human and animal cells cultured in vitro to study the toxicities of potentially hazardous substances. Originally it was planned as a supplement to the ongoing practice of animal toxicity testing in vivo.

Initially, it was not my main intention to save animals, but to develop better science to help make more informed decisions of toxic assessments.

What was your greatest challenge in presenting your program?

In 1976, when I wrote an expanded proposal delineating how such a program could be developed and conducted, a key component included the training of personnel in the art and science of cell culture. My challenge was to convince my directors that this was the wave of the future when most knew very little about cultured cells or understood little of their potential use in all areas of toxicology other than genetics and cancer research.

Continued on page 10
Can you explain for us why animal models have been used in toxicology?

Traditionally, the science of toxicology used animal models to assess the toxic effects of unknown chemicals, drugs and food additives to make regulatory decisions regarding human safety. The animal models carried the legal authority in regulatory decision-making because these methods were often published in the *Federal Register* to be used as a checklist by the regulatory authorities.

What was the scientific rationale for using animals?

Although most of these methods had not been validated by adhering to a strict protocol, they were in general use by the toxicology research community, and the sheer weight of evidence provided the justification for their use in regulatory decisions. It was the best, if not perfect, method known at that time. The traditional animal tests had protected the public in the past and engendered trust in their use. There was no urgency to change.

What has changed since you got started 31 years ago?

In the last three decades, there has been a shift in attitudes regarding the use of animals in research. The shift was prompted by the many advances in the development of non-animal methods to include cellular, molecular, and mathematical and computer model systems. Cell and tissue culture methods provided the opportunity to study the biological mechanisms by which a chemical or drug acts in such a way that was never possible in animals.

Who has supported the development of non-animal alternatives?

There have been a number of groups and organizations that have supported the development and use of the new technology. Non-profit groups such as International Foundation for Ethical Research (IFER) and the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT) at Johns Hopkins University were among the first to support the research efforts of scientific investigators and graduate students in the pursuit of more humane science.

Why is the validation of alternatives important?

Although the concept of alternatives dates back to 1959 when William Russell and Rex Burch of the Universities Federation of Animal Welfare suggested the “three R’s” – *Reduction, Refinement* and *Replacement* – as a means of reducing the animal suffering inherent in many studies, only recently are regulators becoming more open to considering alternative test methods. Their reasons for doing so include scientific reasons, lower costs or faster results than traditional animal tests, or animal welfare concerns. Implementation of the “three R’s” means facilitating the regulatory acceptance of alternative methods. In reality, the method will not be used unless it is accepted by regulatory agencies as a replacement for a traditional animal test.

Who oversees this regulatory process?

In the USA, the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM), made up of representatives of 15 federal agencies, appoints panels of independent experts to review the available literature, including protocols submitted by companies, to assess the validity of a test. Depending on its regulatory mandate, each agency then independently decides whether or not to accept the test.
How many alternative methods have been validated and implemented?

Since its inception in 1997, ICCVAM has accepted 16 alternative methods, six of which have been adopted by regulatory authorities, whereas the others are undergoing improvements. ECVAM (European Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods), ICCVAM’s counterpart, has validated 17 alternatives; nine more are in the last stage of peer review; another 25 are undergoing final trials or analysis. By law, an alternative must be used in Europe once it is validated, but in practice delays of several years are still common. As European regulators become more accustomed to the new methods, they are more apt to accept them. Fortunately, ICCVAM works closely with ECVAM and can benefit from all the challenges confronting a new process.

What is your pragmatic assessment of the near future concerning the development and implementation of alternatives to the use of animals?

Scientific advancement over the years has provided the basic tools to develop methods without causing harm to an animal or human. It is not realistic to think that science will eliminate all animal experimentation immediately, but the direction is toward a considerable reduction in animal use. Alternatives can save billions of dollars and cut years off testing schedules while providing more pertinent data. The new science will not only protect the lives of animals, but humans will also be the ultimate beneficiary.

Why have you chosen to work with the National Anti-Vivisection Society and the International Foundation for Ethical Research?

When I retired from the federal government after more than 30 years as a research scientist, I made a commitment to seeing that progress in this area would continue. And I thought I could do more tackling it from a different perspective. The people associated with these organizations, especially my colleagues from science, are so generous in sharing their time and expertise — it creates real enthusiasm and a sense of accomplishment. I understand that we have a long way to go before solving this problem, but I think we’ve laid a strong foundation on which we can continue to build real progress. Now I can use my scientific expertise to help identify innovative developments in science and science education that will potentially spare millions of animals from being used as research subjects.

“I understand that we have a long way to go before solving this problem, but I think we’ve laid a strong foundation on which we can continue to build real progress.”
**Now That’s the Cat’s Meow**

They’re called the “Cajun Kitties,” and there are 43 of them—helpless victims of the devastating power of Hurricane Katrina, who have found a safe new home at Cedarhill Sanctuary—in large part because of your generous contributions to the NAVS Sanctuary Fund.

Cedarhill Animal Sanctuary, founded in 1990 in Caledonia, Mississippi, provides lifetime care, maintenance and housing for abandoned, abused, homeless, and neglected exotic and domestic felines. As you might expect, the staff at Cedarhill took quick action to rescue as many cats as possible in the aftermath of Katrina. With your help through the NAVS Sanctuary Fund, Cedarhill staff and volunteers began construction of a new 8,000 sq. ft. enclosure to house their aptly named “Cajun Kitties.”

And what an enclosure it is! One side of the enclosure shares a fence line with Phoebe the tiger, which promises to be a new and exciting experience for all the Cajun Kitties! The enclosure also includes an 8’ x 10’ heated storage building with pillow beds for the kitties’ comfort.

With services donated by Dr. Bushby and his students at the Mississippi State University School of Veterinary Medicine, all the Cajun Kitties were neutered/spayed, tested for infectious disease and vaccinated. Then it was moving day—to the domestic compound where they will share one acre and four houses with the rest of Cedarhill’s permanent residents.

*Thanks to you, our generous supporters, for this happy ending!*
Photo facing page, four of the Cajun Kitties line up for a photo op. Posing for the camera are Odysseus, Romeo, Vamp and Sinatra.

This page, a couple of curious Cajun Kitties engage in a whisker-to-whisker encounter with Phoebe the Tiger, their larger-than-life neighbor at Cedarhill Sanctuary. If the Kitties are wondering what they’re feeding that cat to make her so big, perhaps Phoebe wants to know just where those incredible shrinking tigers came from!
An “A” in Compassion

New Jersey becomes ninth state to enact a student choice law.

Advocates for student choice have scored another victory, as New Jersey joins California, Florida, Illinois, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia in giving students the choice not to dissect without penalty. The New Jersey legislature overwhelmingly passed the legislation, which was signed into law on January 5, 2006.

The law applies to public school students in grades K-12, and it includes a number of provisions regarding parental notification of any dissection projects. It also obligates schools to provide an appropriate alternative, and prohibits discriminating against students who exercise the option not to dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts of an animal as part of their course instruction.

NAVSA has assisted New Jersey advocates in their efforts to pass this legislation since 2002, when the bill was first introduced. To all our supporters in the Garden State who helped push this legislation through by calling and e-mailing their legislators, we say, “Well done!” and thank you all for participating in this successful campaign.

Now we have only 41 states to go. So if your state still does not have a student choice law, please consider enlisting the support of your state legislator in introducing a bill. You can find a model student choice law at Animallaw.com, or you can always call or e-mail the NAVS office for assistance. As we have seen in nine states already, your voice on behalf of animals can really make the difference!
YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP US SAVE MORE ANIMALS.

Use this form for your donation or visit www.navs.org

☐ Here is my gift to sponsor NAVS' educational and advocacy programs.*  GRD10  Enclosed is $ ______________________

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* If you haven’t already joined NAVS, a donation of $40 (or more) entitles you to full membership benefits.

For more information on NAVS membership, call us at 800-888-NAVS (800-888-6287) or visit us at www.navs.org.

TOGETHER, WE’LL MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR ANIMALS!

Register on our website today at www.navs.org to join our online community of animal advocates.

Then click on “Tell a Friend” to keep our community growing and our message of compassion spreading!

ANIMAL ACTION REPORT SOON TO BE AVAILABLE ON-LINE.

Let us know if you would prefer to view future Animal Action Reports on-line.

You can help us save on printing and postage costs—and free up funds to use directly for animals—by reading subsequent issues of the Animal Action Report on-line instead of receiving them through the mail. If you’d like to switch from a paper version of the Animal Action Report to an e-version, simply check the box on the above donor form. We’ll notify you by e-mail that the next issue of the Animal Action Report is available for on-line viewing.
Ohio State University closes its chimpanzee research center.

Animal advocates will be pleased to know that Ohio State University (OSU) has closed its chimpanzee research center after a four-year search for a retirement facility for the nine resident chimpanzees at the center. University officials had decided to close the facility due to “lack of competitive funding.”

At last, a new home for the chimpanzees has been found. Primarily Primates, the largest primate sanctuary in the U.S., will be taking in the animals, and OSU is establishing an endowment for their lifetime care. The nine chimpanzees, five male and four female, range in age from five to 47. Readers of the Animal Action Report will be familiar with Primarily Primates, because this wonderful sanctuary has been the well-deserved recipient of several NAVS Sanctuary Fund grants.

The Associated Press recently reported that other research centers are also looking to close their doors and retire their resident chimpanzees—a real testament to the progress that’s been made in recognizing that these magnificent creatures deserve to live out their lives in peace and harmony after being confined in a laboratory.

Ten years ago, no one in the research community would have been concerned about finding a retirement home for their research subjects. Today, chimpanzees and other animals are getting a new chance at life, and with endowments to provide for their care and maintenance. This progress has been made possible through constructive dialogue between animal advocates and the scientific community.

Time to Get Creative!

The entry deadline for the NAVS Art for Animals Classic is June 15, 2006.

Calling all artists, photographers, poets and computer geniuses! Do you enjoy using your talent to express your love for animals? Then we want to hear from you.

The National Anti-Vivisection Society’s 17th annual Art for Animals Classic is about to get underway, and, as always, the theme is compassion. You could win valuable cash prizes, or even have your work published in one of our upcoming publications.

Here’s a special note to educators: The Art for Animals Classic is a great class project. It provides an opportunity for your students to express themselves creatively while exploring their feelings for animals.

To receive an entry form and competition rules, please call us at 800-888-NAVS (800-888-6287).

Don’t delay—the deadline for entering your submission is June 15, 2006.