The Importance of Being Transparent

What happens behind closed laboratory doors shouldn’t be a mystery.

pg. 4
More than 100 artists from coast to coast and around the world shared their creative visions of a more humane, just and compassionate world in NAVS's 28th annual Art for Animals competition. Artists of all ages illustrated compelling messages in a variety of visual media, with each bringing their own unique perspective to the table.

This year's Best in Show was actually a "two-fer," as judges declared a tie between two works by the same talented artist, Brittany Tangen. Her pieces, “Pen Pals” and “Don’t Blink,” shared our top prize.

“My goal is to move people in a way that stirs them to see more than just a dog or a cat or a farm animal on paper,” Tangen noted. “I want people to contemplate the emotion in the subject’s eyes, to revisit a long-lost memory of a companion they perhaps once had, and to relish life’s innocence—if only for a minute or two. Art has a unique way of bringing out the beauty in the ordinary.”

First Place went to “Madame Des Chats” by Susan Alcott Jardine. Second Place went to Dory and Drew Korowski’s “My Perspective.” And in Third Place, Tal Dvir’s “Hope” rounded off our slate of winners.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated in Art for Animals 2017!
The Circle Isn’t Complete Without YOU

What if there was a simple way for you to make a difference for animals all year long? What if you could take a single action that would resonate every month in the lives of animals all across the country?

When you become part of NAVS’ Circle of Compassion, you’ll join a special group of our most committed donors—individuals who understand that the need for our lifesaving programs doesn’t only happen at certain times of the year. Recurring gifts by Circle of Compassion members ensure that NAVS always has the regular, necessary funding we need to help animals...at any time.

And while joining the Circle of Compassion shows your deep commitment to animals, it doesn't require deep pockets. A small gift of only $15, $10—or even $5—a month will have a HUGE impact.

As a special “thank you,” we’ll keep you in the loop with special email updates, letting you know how your extraordinary support is stopping the cruelty and saving animals from being exploited in the name of science. And because we’ll know that we can count on your gift each month, we won’t have to fill your mailbox with fundraising appeals throughout the year!

Joining the Circle of Compassion is easy. You can use the envelope inside this issue of Animal Action, call us at 800-888-NAVS or join online at www.navs.org/circle.

Thank you for your support—and for completing the Circle of Compassion.

Educating and Engaging from Coast to Coast

Summer vacation may be a time to sit back and relax, but for NAVS, summer saw us participating in—and lending our perspective to—a variety of prominent national and international conferences.

First up, NAVS took part in the 2017 Animal Rights National Conference in Alexandria, VA. Over the course of three-and-a-half days, we met with hundreds of animal advocates, discussed NAVS program initiatives, distributed NAVS informational literature, and attended numerous educational sessions.

Shortly thereafter, our legal/legislative team took part in the National Conference of State Legislators in Boston, MA. NAVS joined forces with the American Anti-Vivisection Society to engage legislators from around the country in conversations about dissection alternatives. With a very lifelike frog dissection specimen on display (a simulation, of course), it was easy to get folks talking about their own largely unpleasant dissection experiences. Those discussions led to talk of dissection alternatives in schools and the need to introduce student choice legislation.

Finally, the 10th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences in Seattle, WA, brought together scientists, veterinarians, individuals from regulatory agencies, industry and animal protection organizations to discuss the 3 R’s—reduction, refinement and replacement—of animal use in research, testing and education as well as innovative approaches to ethics, animal welfare and public policy. NAVS and our partner organization, the International Foundation for Ethical Research, were proud to participate in the meeting, in which our advisors had the honor of speaking and presenting posters on a wide range of topics. NAVS has long recognized the importance of constructive dialogue with scientists to advance the development and acceptance of alternative methods if animal research is to come to an end.
A recent Gallup poll contained what should have been great news for animals: The number of Americans who oppose using animals for medical testing reached a record high, with 44 percent of respondents calling the practice “morally wrong.” In 2001, only 26 percent of Americans felt this way.

Meanwhile, studies continue to demonstrate that animal models simply don’t work. In fact, evidence shows that in certain areas of research—for example, drug development for nervous system disorders—the animal model may even be holding us back from scientific breakthroughs.

On average, it takes approximately 13 years and $1 billion to develop a new drug, yet 95% of drugs that advance to human clinical trials following promising animal tests ultimately fail in humans. The failure to translate the findings from experiments using animal models to humans results in wasted time, money, resources and lives.

Despite this, after several years on the decline, the number of Animal Welfare Act (AWA)-covered animals used for medical experiments and teaching actually increased in 2016. Perhaps even more troubling is the fact that earlier this year, important information about animal experimentation was suddenly, and without warning, deleted from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) website. And while public pressure from animal advocates helped to see some of the data restored, the available information is still woefully inadequate.

In 2016, the USDA reported that 820,812 animals were used by institutions licensed under the AWA for basic research, safety testing of chemicals, personal care products, drug research and development, and educational purposes. This number represents an increase of 6.9% over 2015 numbers.

Significantly, this already large figure does not include mice, rats and birds. These animals are excluded from “protection” under the AWA, yet they account for 90-95% of all animals used in science.

Under current U.S. law, institutions using animals for any of these purposes are required to submit annual reports to the USDA on the number and species of animals used.
(excluding mice, rats and birds). They are not, however, required to specify how each of these animals is being used—they only have to note if the animals were subjected to pain and, if so, whether pain killers were used.

But why is it important to know how animals are used for research?

The first reason is that millions of animals are being bred only to suffer in research facilities or testing laboratories for the alleged benefit of humans. This is despite huge advances in the availability of non-animal methods of conducting research and safety testing methods that do not harm animals. Researchers insist that animals need to be used, but there is little or no accountability given to weighing the animals' suffering in making that choice.

Another reason is that animal testing is a big business. Billions of taxpayer dollars are spent on animal testing and research, again with little accountability to the public regarding the type of research or the number of animals used in perpetuating this archaic reliance on animal models.

Knowledge of how animals are used, for what purpose and with what results is important in advocating for change. In 2014, NAVS submitted a petition for rulemaking to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the enforcement division of the USDA that directly addresses these issues. The petition notes that current data collection and reporting methods in the U.S. lack the scope and detail found in the system currently in use in the European Union.

It also asks that APHIS amend its requirements for recordkeeping and reporting on the use of animals by entities, including research facilities, which are licensed by the USDA under the AWA.

NAVS' proposed new rules would greatly improve the type of information collected from research institutions and would then make that information available to the public. Comments on our proposal were solicited in 2015 (and more than 1,700 were received); however, no further action has since been taken by APHIS. NAVS continues to pursue a response from this government agency.

In the meantime, NAVS continued to rely on information on animal use provided by APHIS on its searchable online database, the Animal Care Search Tool. The information provided by APHIS, while incomplete, was still a basis for understanding trends in animal use and for investigating violations by research institutions licensed under the AWA.

This past February, however, this search tool was taken offline and public access was denied.

In March, the Animal Welfare Accountability and Transparency Act (S 503/HR 1368), was introduced in the U.S. Congress. This legislation would restore public access to records collected by the USDA regarding inspections, enforcement actions, regulations, registrations and AWA-licensed businesses. It would also restore access related to the Horse Protection Act (HPA), a law aimed at ending a cruel practice known as "soring," wherein a horse's forelegs are treated with painful chemicals or by mechanical means to make the horse's gait higher when it walks.

In the intervening months, the USDA has reposted some records concerning animal use under the AWA in a stripped down, less customizable database.

Under current AWA regulations, all research facilities that use or intend to use live animals in research, tests, experiments or for teaching are required to submit an annual report to APHIS. These reports must include assurances that:

- acceptable standards have been used by the research facility regarding their animal care and use;
- alternatives to painful procedures were considered; and
- any exceptions that cause animals pain and suffering were approved by a facility's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, which must review and approve all proposed research on animals.

The annual reports must also include the number and species of animals used by any research facility and where they are being housed. Additionally, reports must note how many animals of each species were used for painful experiments, with and without painkillers.

As things stand now, much of APHIS' once instantly-accessible information is still not available to the public, and identifying information has been removed from inspection reports. And the online information that has been restored is not easily searchable.

Access to this information is crucial in knowing how animals are being used and how our taxpayer money is being spent. The Animal Welfare Accountability and Transparency Act would require the return of all regulatory records under the AWA and the HPA in a user-friendly searchable database.

As an ever-increasing number of Americans are coming to understand the folly of animal tests and are demanding progress toward the development of humane alternatives, it is time for the government to become more—not less—open about its use of animals. Passage of the Animal Welfare Accountability and Transparency Act will play an important role in replacing the use of animals for research, testing and education with more humane, predictive and human-relevant testing methods.

You can lend your voice to this effort by sending a letter to your federal legislators in support of the Animal Welfare and Transparency Act through NAVS' online Advocacy Center at www.navs.org/advocacy.

A version of this article originally appeared on AlterNet.org.
The experiments being conducted at the McGuire VA hospital in Richmond are horrific and inhumane. Alternative and kinder medical testing methods exist that do not require hurting and killing puppies.

From a press release by Rep. Dave Brat, in support of his introduction of the Preventing Unkind and Painful Procedures and Experiments on Respected Species (PUPPERS) Act on July 12, 2017, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from conducting medical research causing significant pain or distress to dogs.

Chicago’s justifications for the [puppy mill] ordinance are plentiful and plausible. The City’s policy goals are to reduce financial support for mill breeders, curb the emotional and financial burdens on consumers who unwittingly buy mill-bred pets, and reduce the cost of sheltering and euthanizing unwanted problem pets. These are unquestionably legitimate governmental interests, and it’s rational to think that the puppy-mill ordinance will serve them.

Judge Sykes in Park Pet Shop, Inc. et al v. City of Chicago, Sept. 21, 2017. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit affirmed the lower court’s dismissal of this claim and upheld Chicago’s “puppy mill” ordinance, which limits the sources from which pet stores may obtain dogs, cats, and rabbits for resale.

Legislative Advocacy by the Numbers

121 different advocacy items posted on the NAVS website so far this year

- 29 federal bills
- 92 state bills

74,050 messages were sent through the NAVS Advocacy Center

- 47,350 Federal actions
- 11,100 State actions
- 15,600 National actions

9,000 advocates have taken action through the NAVS Advocacy Center so far in 2017

(All numbers as of 10/1/17)

When the courts weigh in on animal issues:

The fact that Congress established “ingredient requirements” for poultry products that are produced does not preclude a state from banning products—here, for example, on the basis of animal cruelty—well before the birds are slaughtered.


What the Act appears perfectly tailored toward is preventing undercover investigators from exposing abuses at agricultural facilities.... [T]he State has provided no evidence that animal and employee safety were the actual reasons for enacting the Act, nor that animal and employee safety are endangered by those targeted by the Act...

Judge Shelby in ALDF v. Herbert, July 7, 2017. The U.S. District Court for Utah struck down Utah’s ag-gag law as unconstitutional, agreeing that the ag-gag law violates free speech. A U.S. District Court in Idaho similarly struck down that state’s ag-gag law in 2015.
Dear Friends and Supporters of NAVS,

As you read through the pages of NAVS' FY2017 Annual Report, I hope you share my pride in all that has been accomplished over the past year. Know, too, that you also share the credit.

Everything we do to put an end to the cruelty perpetrated on animals inside laboratories—all that we have achieved, and will continue to achieve—is made possible because of your support, your advocacy, your donations and your bequests. What we know about the suffering of animals used in science is heart-breaking, but we remain optimistic because we believe that by working together we will create a world of greater compassion, respect and justice for animals. The confidence that you have placed in NAVS inspires us to move forward with innovative and effective initiatives that are making a real, tangible difference for animals.

Our efforts in support of these initiatives continue to be recognized by charity monitoring organizations such as Charity Navigator. They’re the reason we have, in 2017, been once again named as a Top-Rated Nonprofit by Great Nonprofits. They’re the reason that we are continually re-accredited by the Better Business Bureau, meeting all 20 of their stringent Standards for Charity Accountability. And this year, we are particularly proud to be recognized as a GuideStar Platinum Participant. This is the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar, one of the world’s largest and most respected charity watchdogs.

On behalf of the board and staff of NAVS, I thank you once again for helping make our shared vision of a more humane world a reality.

Gratefully,

Peggy Cunniff
Executive Director
SCIENCE INITIATIVES

By promoting innovative, human-relevant methodologies to replace the use of animals in product testing, biomedical research and education, NAVS is advancing smarter science that will provide better answers to human health issues while ending the unnecessary suffering of animals.

International Foundation for Ethical Research (IFER)
Since it was founded by NAVS in 1985, IFER has supported the development, acceptance and implementation of innovative scientific methodologies with a focus today on the awarding of Graduate Student Fellowships. By funding early career researchers with an interest in developing innovative alternatives to animal experiments, NAVS and IFER hope to seed the scientific field with talented individuals prepared to integrate scientific discovery with ethics and respect for animals.

Science First
NAVS’ free weekly e-newsletter highlights current innovations in science that can help reduce, refine and—ultimately—replace the use of animals with smarter, more humane solutions. “Science First” is also distributed via the NAVS website and social media.

Special Grants
NAVS provided a grant to the Society for In Vitro Biology in support of the Student Initiative and In Vitro Animal Cell Sciences Activity at their annual meeting. NAVS also provided a grant to the Institute for In Vitro Sciences in support of their international efforts to provide effective training programs in non-animal testing methodologies for foreign scientists and members of the regulatory community.

STUDENT AND EDUCATOR OUTREACH

NAVS believes strongly that no student should be forced to harm animals in pursuit of a science education. By encouraging students to pursue innovative scientific endeavors that don’t harm animals, NAVS is making a critical investment in the future of scientific research.

Biology Education Advancement Program (BioLEAP)
A comprehensive educational resource for students who do not wish to take part in classroom dissection exercises, as well as for teachers and administrators looking to incorporate dissection alternatives in their schools, BioLEAP aids the integration of today’s technology into science classrooms to make the life sciences more exciting as well as more humane.

Intel ISEF
NAVS is the only animal advocacy group offering an award at a national science fair, the NAVS Humane Science Award at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, where high school students are rewarded for projects that advance science without harming animals. At the 2017 ISEF, NAVS also presented a workshop to teachers on student choice and the advantages of using animal dissection alternatives.

LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

NAVS provides tools and timely information on pending legislation and animal-related concerns, empowering advocates to easily spread the word and take effective actions that extend greater compassion, respect and justice for animals.

CHOICE Initiative
To ensure that no student is punished for standing up for their right to a humane education, NAVS launched CHOICE: Compassionate Humane Options in Classroom Education, a state-by-state effort to encourage the introduction and passage of legislation giving students the right to opt out of taking part in classroom dissection exercises. In FY2017, student choice legislation was introduced in Hawaii, Maryland and North Dakota.

Adoption of Dogs and Cats from Research
Animals used for scientific purposes—including dogs and cats—are all too often regarded as disposable commodities, killed and discarded when they’re no longer “needed.” NAVS worked with state legislators all across the U.S. to spur the introduction of legislation making it mandatory that adoptable companion animals be made available for adoption. In FY2017, adoption legislation was introduced in 11 states—Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Texas—and passed in Illinois.

Advocacy Center
Through our online Advocacy Center, NAVS drafts and submits comments on state and federal legislation, proposed federal agency rulemaking and corporate activities that impact animals. Many of these letters are available through the advocacy center for advocates to send on their own behalf directly to decision-makers.

Take Action Thursday
This free weekly e-newsletter summarizes important federal and state initiatives affecting animals. Supporters are encouraged to “take action” by contacting elected officials, policymakers and corporations directly through NAVS’ Advocacy Center. Through a special arrangement with Encyclopædia Britannica, NAVS’ “Take Action Thursday” alerts are also published online each week in their “Advocacy for Animals” blog.

Animal Law Resource Center
The Animal Law Resource Center at www.AnimalLaw.com provides information on relevant laws and legislation for all 50 states and the federal government, along with model laws and case digests.

International Institute for Animal Law (IIAL)
The IIAL receives an annual grant from NAVS to promote legal scholarship and advocacy skills in the field of animal law.

National Research Library for Animal Advocacy
In partnership with The John Marshall Law School, this collection
of animal law scholarship is available to law students and professors around the country through the law school's inter-library loan program.

GENERAL EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMS

As a respected and credible source of information and perspective, NAVS increases awareness, changes attitudes and implements positive solutions to end the exploitation of animals in society.

Animal Action
Published three times a year, NAVS’ Animal Action newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of current issues regarding vivisection—including progress and challenges in advancing humane science and proposed and approved animal protection measures—as well as achievements made possible by NAVS programs.

NAVS Website
The NAVS website (www.navs.org) is a comprehensive, credible and timely educational resource, as well as a powerful tool for taking action in support of animal-friendly changes to laws and policies. The website includes an interactive cruelty-free product search, opportunities to take action for animals through our Advocacy Center, digital versions of NAVS publications, and analysis of scientific issues and their impact on animals in research.

Social Media
NAVS maintains a consistent presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, facilitating productive and engaging real-time conversations with fellow animal advocates, and providing opportunities for advocacy and engagement. Our weekly science blog, “Science First,” is shared on LinkedIn, and all NAVS videos—including first-person narratives by NAVS/IFER-funded scientists—are housed on our YouTube page and on the NAVS website.

Art for Animals
NAVS’ annual art contest received a diverse collection of more than 100 creative pieces of artwork from around the world. Winners were announced on the NAVS website, on social media and in NAVS’ Animal Action.

National Conference Participation
NAVS was active in a wide range of national conferences in FY2017, including the Animal Rights National Conference in Los Angeles, the National Conference of State Legislators in Chicago, and the Animal Welfare Act at Fifty Conference at Harvard Law. NAVS is proud to take part in these national conversations that are helping to shape the future of animal protection efforts in the United States.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

NAVS is committed to supporting a variety of special initiatives, both within our organization and in cooperation with other animal advocacy groups. These efforts help save animal lives today while paving the way for long-term and positive change for animals.

NAVS Sanctuary Fund Grants
Through the Sanctuary Fund, NAVS provides emergency financial assistance to support animals retired from laboratories, as well as those threatened by natural and human-made disasters, such as hurricanes and flooding. In FY2017, NAVS provided 23 grants totaling $114,790 to sanctuaries and shelters in 16 states.

Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics
NAVS is a proud member of the Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics and its internationally-recognized Leaping Bunny program, which provides assurances to consumers that no new animal testing is used in any phase of product development by a company, its laboratories or its suppliers. A searchable cruelty-free product guide is available on the NAVS website at navs.org/cruelty-free and as a mobile app for iOS and Android.

Miscellaneous Small Grants
NAVS continues to support the efforts of like-minded organizations whose work reflects the mission of NAVS, including the National Council for Animal Protection, a professional association of national animal advocacy leaders.
**Revenue**

- Funds from Operations: $826,457
- Non-operation Funds: $1,166,391
- Bequests and Legacies: $896,681

**Total Revenue**: $2,889,529

**Investments**

- Common Stocks Mkt. Value: $6,316,145
- Restricted Investments: $267,457

**Total Investments**: $6,583,602

**ALL Expenses**

- Programs and Education: $2,029,875
- Fundraising: $387,259
- Administrative: $282,486

**Total ALL Expenses**: $2,699,620

**Program and Education Expenses**

- General Education/Public Awareness: $976,524
- Science: $528,286
- Legal/Legislative: $282,121
- Special Initiatives/Cooperative Efforts: $159,365
- Student/Educator Outreach: $83,579

**Total Program and Education Expenses**: $2,029,875

**Assets**

- Cash and Cash Equivalents: $276,906
- Accounts Receivable: $30,644
- Prepaid Expenses: $57,358
- Accrued Interest Receivable: $216
- Property and Equipment: $63,020

**Total Assets Before Investments**: $428,144

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

- Accrued Expenses & Accounts Payable: $3,584
- Accrued Vacation: $48,719
- Grants Payable: $250,000
- **Total Liabilities**: $302,303

**Net Assets**

- Restricted: Special Project (Sanctuary Fund): $340,915
- Investment: $267,457
- Unrestricted: $6,101,071

**Total Net Assets**: $7,011,746

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The financial statements have been audited by the accounting firm of Selden Fox, Ltd., and in their opinion, present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the National Anti-Vivisection Society as of June 30, 2017. A complete audited financial statement can be found on the NAVS website at www.navs.org/financial-information.
“The animal models are a disaster. I worry not just that they might be wrong. ‘Wrong’ animal models you can work with. If you know why it’s wrong, you can use the good parts of the model, and you don’t take any information from the parts that are bad. But what if the neurodegenerative disease models are not wrong but irrelevant? Irrelevant is much worse than wrong. Because irrelevance sends you in the wrong direction. And I think the animal models for nearly all of the neurological disorders are in fact irrelevant. And that scares the s*** out of me, if you pardon the expression.”

Dr. Gregory Petsko of Weill Cornell Medical College in Richard Harris’ book Rigor Mortis, 2017

“$15 million
The amount of money that the NIH awarded to “Tissue Chip for Disease Modeling and Efficacy Testing” grant recipients this year to support development of 3-D human tissue models

“I think for most people, the goal is to replace animal testing and to carry out personalized medicine in a more effective way.”

Dr. Donald Ingber, founding director of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University, discussing the potential of organs-on-chips.

“[Animal experiments] come with shortcomings, and their true contribution is often overrated.”

Dr. Thomas Hartung, toxicologist at Johns Hopkins University in “Opinion versus evidence for the need to move away from animal testing,” Altex, 2017

Between 51% and 89% Estimated number of animal studies that are not reproducible, according to “Sloppy reporting on animal studies proves hard to change,” Science, Sept. 29, 2017

“It’s quite common to cure a disease in a mouse model, only to discover that it’s irrelevant for treating human disease. And that, for scientists trying to conduct rigorous scientific research, makes mice a big, hairy problem.”

Richard Harris, science reporter for NPR, in Rigor Mortis, 2017
Every year, thousands of bills concerning animal issues are considered by the federal government, all 50 states and the District of Columbia. These bills cover a wide variety of issues, including animals in research and education, animal neglect and cruelty, animal control, farming and agriculture, disease prevention, and even hunting and trapping. Some bills would prohibit the use of animals in a harmful way and others would perpetuate or even expand existing practices—especially through hunting, trapping and farming—to legitimize that harm.

How can we make a difference? What can an individual do to promote good or oppose bad legislation? There are a few things that we all can do, and NAVS, through our online Advocacy Center and “Take Action Thursday” e-newsletter, makes it easy for advocates to:

- pay attention to what our government is doing at the local, state and federal levels;
- speak out, loud and clear, to let our elected officials know what we think about the legislation; and
- share this information with your own friends and family members to enlist their support in any campaign.
STATE LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

Several years ago, NAVS took a more aggressive approach to the introduction of state legislation to benefit animals in research and education. As part of this endeavor, we began to solicit targeted legislative bodies, asking state legislators to consider introducing specific legislation in their state. This proactive approach has proven to be very successful and we are expanding our efforts for the coming year.

Last year, NAVS asked legislators to consider greater protection for dogs and cats used by publicly-funded research facilities by requiring them to give these companion animals a chance at living out their lives in a loving home instead of being euthanized after the testing, research or teaching exercise was complete. Legislators in 11 states agreed that this was a great idea and introduced legislation.

Furthermore, Illinois joined Minnesota, California, Connecticut, Nevada and New York in passing a law to require healthy dogs and cats to be offered for adoption—through a shelter or rescue organization, or through a university’s own adoption process—giving these animals a chance at finding their forever home. Notably, the Illinois law also mandates more detailed accounting by the research institutions about how the animals are used. Delaware, Massachusetts and New Jersey are still considering this legislation. Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Texas failed to act this year. It took three years for Illinois to pass this law and NAVS will be encouraging the reintroduction of bills in the 2018 sessions.

NAVS has also been actively working to encourage the passage of statewide laws or policies guaranteeing students the right to use an alternative to dissecting an animal specimen in the classroom. Three states—Hawaii, Maryland and North Dakota—considered bills this year. In Maryland, the Senate Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs approved the bill. The full Senate, however, was swayed by objections from the County School Boards, which opposed legislating this matter, even though they refused to institute countywide policies on the issue. Hawaii legislators introduced three separate bills without success in 2017. The legislation was also defeated in the North Dakota House.

There have been many other legislative efforts that NAVS has promoted through our online Advocacy Center, including 12 bills to establish registries for animal abusers. Tennessee and Michigan already have laws in place, along with many local and county authorities. Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York still have bills pending this year.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

This legislative session, there is also an abundance of federal bills related to the use of animals in science. Passage of any of these bills would represent a huge leap forward for animals across the country:

• The Humane Cosmetics Act, HR 2790, would end the safety testing of cosmetics on animals and phase out the sale of animal-tested cosmetics. The number of sponsors is growing, but more are needed to move this bill forward.

• The Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training (BEST) Practices Act, HR 1243/S 498, would end the use of live animals for both combat trauma injuries and chemical and biological casualty training exercises by the U.S. military.

• The Pet Safety and Protection Act of 2017, HR 1141, would prohibit research facilities from obtaining animals from Class B (random source) animal dealers.

• The Animal Welfare Accountability and Transparency Act, HR 1368/S 503, would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to restore its searchable database of public information on licensees under the Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act, after removing it earlier this year. Even though the USDA has restored some of the records to their website, the records are no longer easily searchable and a vast number of records are still missing. (See story on pgs. 4-5.)

• The Federal Accountability in Chemical Testing (FACT) Act, HR 816, would require federal agencies to provide a more detailed accounting of the animals they are using and the advances they have made in developing, validating, accepting and utilizing alternative test methods to replace animal use.

• The Preventing Unkind and Painful Procedures and Experiments on Respected Species (PUPPERS) Act, HR 3197, would prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from conducting medical research that causes significant pain or distress to dogs.

Actions on all of these bills—and more—are available through the NAVS Advocacy Center at www.navs.org/advocacy. It just takes a click of your mouse to send a letter to your state or federal legislators to speak out on behalf of animals. Working together, we’ll continue to make significant strides in advancing greater protections for animals.
When their release from the laboratory was finally secured, retired research rhesus macaques Zoot and Scooter needed additional funding to successfully make it to Mindy’s Memory Primate Sanctuary in Newcastle, OK. All too often, labs offer little to no support for animals’ long-term care. Luckily, a NAVS Sanctuary Fund grant could help cover initial medical costs, as well as beginning construction costs for a new enclosure.

Before arriving at Four Paws Rescue in El Cajon, CA, Maya spent her previous seven years at a research facility, used to breed litter after litter only to have her puppies taken from her and sold for research. After Maya experienced a serious medical condition, the NAVS Sanctuary Fund helped cover vet costs, and she is now looking for her forever home.

To accept all the 28 monkeys on its waiting list, Jungle Friends Animal Sanctuary in Gainesville, FL had a daunting amount of money to raise to save every animal. A NAVS Sanctuary Fund Grant and a generous matching donation helped them to reach their goal, providing the support for the habitats and direct care for all 28 monkeys, 12 of whom are tamarins or squirrel monkeys being released from research. Jersey, pictured, is a brown capuchin and former pet helped by a previous NAVS grant.

Foraging and spending time in social groups are important activities for baboons. Thanks to a NAVS Sanctuary Fund grant, a group of baboons retired from research (including Freya, pictured) will now get to leave the laboratory and enjoy a new enclosure at Peaceable Primate Sanctuary in Winamac, IN. They will be able to live out the rest of their lives with the freedom to be baboons—not test subjects.

The NAVS Sanctuary Fund is a lifeline to animal rescues, shelters and sanctuaries who find themselves in desperate need of financial assistance.

Happily Ever After...Because of You!

Whether it’s on behalf of Maya the beagle in California, Freya the baboon in Indiana, Jersey the capuchin in Florida or any of the numerous other animals in need, the NAVS Sanctuary Fund has come to the aid of sanctuaries, rescues and shelters around the country doing great work to provide shelter and care for creatures great and small. It’s because of the generosity of our donors that we’re able to share “happily ever after” stories like these!
SIVB Meeting Points to the Success of Non-Animal Alternatives

By Dr. John W. Harbell

The National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) and the International Foundation for Ethical Research (IFER) have championed the move from whole animal-based research in physiology, drug development, and toxicology to the use of in vitro methods (often called alternative methods). They have worked to accomplish this goal through credible educational and public awareness programs, IFER Graduate Student Fellowship grants and their support of the Society for In Vitro Biology’s (SIVB) annual scientific meeting. The SIVB was founded in 1946 (as the Tissue Culture Association) specifically to promote the use of cells and tissues in culture for research and testing. For SIVB members, in vitro methods are not called “alternatives.” Rather, these methods are our primary approach for research. There are many questions that one simply cannot address in the whole animal and others that one should not address when in vitro methods are available.

NAVS and IFER have had a long association with the SIVB. For some time, SIVB members have participated in and chaired the Scientific Advisory Board that performs the IFER grant application reviews. More recently, NAVS and IFER have provided support for the SIVB’s annual scientific meeting. This support has been instrumental in helping to underwrite the free registration for graduate students attending the meeting and helping to support specific parts of the scientific program.

High quality in vitro science is the future. The SIVB program committee works to identify topics and associated experts to present successful applications of in vitro biology. From the 2017 meeting program, several symposia stand out as being directly applicable to the missions of NAVS and IFER.

One example was the keynote symposium for the meeting, “Regenerative Medicine: Current Concepts and Changing Trends,” delivered by Dr. Anthony Atala, MD, of the Wake Forest Institute of Regenerative Medicine. Dr. Atala heads a team of over 400 researchers. Dr. Atala notes that “regenerative medicine and tissue engineering apply the principles of cell transplantation, material sciences and bioengineering to construct biological substitutes that may restore and maintain normal function in diseased and injured tissues.”

This work is performed with human cells—often stem cells—which can be induced to form the functioning cells and structures of the desired organ. Dr. Atala has also applied this work to the development of human cell-based organ-on-a-chip models for research.

Some may ask why, in this day of the internet, are scientific meetings so important? The short answer is that there is no substitute for face-to-face interaction in teaching, mentoring and collaboration. In my 40+ years with the SIVB, I can attest to its strong focus on teaching/mentoring, which provides an opportunity for students and new researchers to the field to present their work and interact with the more senior members of the society.

This is why free registration for students, a program supported by NAVS and IFER, is so important. It allows students from many diverse programs to participate and benefit from the strong scientific program and mentoring opportunities. NAVS and IFER, along with their supporters, should be justifiably proud of the opportunity their contributions have provided.
When Hurricanes Hit, You Answered the Call

Earlier this year, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma wreaked havoc across the southern coast of the United States. Among those impacted were the countless animals caught in the path of these deadly and destructive storms.

Thanks to the generous response to our hurricane relief appeal, the NAVS Sanctuary Fund provided emergency funds to sanctuaries in Florida and Texas to assist with animal aid and rebuilding costs.

Rowdy Girl Sanctuary in Angleton, Texas was right in the path of Category 4 Hurricane Harvey. Home to cows, chickens, horses, dogs and turkeys, each of the 96 animals at Rowdy Girl were safe thanks to quick action from staff and volunteers who helped by providing temporary homes and transportation. While the animals were all safe, the sanctuary property was completely flooded, damaging many of their structures, destroying fences and covering fields in debris. As the waters subside, a NAVS Sanctuary Fund Grant will help as they begin the process to rebuild and recover.

When Hurricane Irma was predicted to hit most of Florida, Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary in Gainesville began the process of ensuring each of its residents were “hunkering down” for the weather. Thankfully, no residents (human or non-human) were harmed, but the primate habitats and roads were damaged, with several trees on the site being upended in the high winds. A NAVS Sanctuary Fund Grant will help Jungle Friends with repairs, as well as improvements that will prepare the sanctuary for storms in the future.

Thank you to the many generous donors who helped provide much-needed disaster relief to the animals imperiled by this season’s hurricanes.

Disasters can strike at any time. To help ensure that the NAVS Sanctuary Fund can continue to respond when the calls come in, make a gift today at www.navs.org/sanctuary.