AS NATURE INTENDED
Sanctuaries are giving animals the lives they deserve
pg. 6

PLUS: Could a new threat to chimpanzees jeopardize their hard-fought freedom?
pg. 8

ART FOR ANIMALS 2018
Share your vision of compassion in the NAVS’ 29th annual competition

SMARTER SCIENCE: THE NEXT GENERATION
Meet the young researchers who are advancing humane solutions
Now in its 29th year, NAVS’ Art for Animals contest has provided an opportunity for artists of all skills and ages to create images that inspire others to extend compassion, respect and justice to all animals.

For our 2018 competition, we’re once again looking for fresh perspectives to illustrate NAVS’ mission of ending the exploitation of animals used in science, as well as messages of hope and compassion.

For example, your artwork could appear in print and online messages from NAVS, and on greeting cards and on social media throughout the year.

Submissions may be digitally-created artwork, as well as digital images of original paintings, illustrations or photographs. Artwork files may only be submitted via email, CD/DVD-ROM or portable flash drives. No physical artwork can be accepted.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the Best in Show, as well as for First, Second and Third Place winners.

Whether you’re paying tribute to an animal in your life, or appreciating animals in the world around you, Art for Animals 2018 is your chance to give voice—in a new and creative way—to those who cannot speak for themselves.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, July 27, 2018.

For complete guidelines or to learn more, visit www.navs.org/art.
NAVS Forum Addresses Finer Points of Humane Lobbying

On November 15, NAVS co-sponsored a program with the DePaul University Animal Law Center, “Humane Lobbying: Using the Legislative Process on Behalf of Animals.” Law students, practicing attorneys and animal advocates from across the Chicago area took part in this special free forum.

The program was led by Illinois State Senator Linda Holmes (D-Aurora) and lobbyist Dave Marsh, who were instrumental in passing the Illinois Research Dog and Cat Adoption Act through the Illinois General Assembly in 2017.

The first half of the afternoon event looked at the unique challenges that accompany efforts to advance animal-friendly legislation. In the second half of the program, attendees were presented with hypothetical scenarios through which they examined many ethical issues pertaining to lobbying and legislating in the State of Illinois.

“Sen. Holmes and Mr. Marsh’s presentation shed light on the roles that legislators and lobbyists play in the successful passage of legislation,” noted NAVS Director of Legal and Legislative Programs, Marcia Kramer, “as well as how we, as advocates, can more effectively work with both of them in moving forward an agenda that promotes greater justice for animals.”

NAVS Advocates Urge Action on Behalf of Dogs

NAVS legal intern Nirupa Kartha had her hands full at the start of the year, as she sorted and prepared thousands of petitions from NAVS supporters to be mailed to Capitol Hill.

As of February 14, NAVS had collected more than 2,300 signed petitions in support of the Preventing Unkind and Painful Procedures and Experiments on Respected Species (PUPPERS) Act, which would prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) from conducting medical research that causes significant pain or distress to dogs.

The PUPPERS Act was introduced by Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA) in July of 2017 and has received wide bipartisan support in the House, with 64 co-sponsors as of February 14.

NAVS’ petitions, which were signed by animal advocates in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., urge U.S. Senators to introduce and support a Senate version of this important humane legislation. The petitions were sent to Capitol Hill in February. More than 1,000 petitions were also submitted online directly to Senators by NAVS supporters.

For updates on important legal and scientific issues affecting animals, visit www.navs.org/email and sign up for our weekly Take Action Thursday and Science First email alerts.
Chimpanzee retirements reconsidered?

...NIH might be reassessing its chimp-retirement plans, which have been criticized by scientists who want to continue using the animals in non-invasive research, and by groups who think that the agency is moving too slowly on relocation. Instead, [director of MD Anderson’s Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research in Bastrop, Texas, Christian] Abee and others have suggested that the chimps “retire in place” at the labs, in their own social groups.

Nature, January 31, 2018

According to a January 25, 2018 New York Times report, Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW paid for tests in 2014 to study the effects of diesel emissions on the passengers in their vehicles, using 10 macaque monkeys—as well as human subjects—in their research. Researchers at the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute in New Mexico placed the monkeys in airtight containers and fed them fumes from a running diesel Volkswagen Beetle to compare the fumes’ effects to those from a 1999 Ford diesel pickup. The test was rigged, the results were invalid and—fortunately—the negative fallout from the exposure of these experiments has been overwhelming.

“These tests on monkeys or even people are in no ethical way justifiable and raise many critical questions about those who are behind the tests.”

Steffen Seibert, a spokesman for German Chancellor Angela Merkel, at a news conference in Berlin, January 29, 2018

“We will clarify how the study came about and have launched an investigation. Daimler does neither tolerate nor support unethical treatment of animals. The animal experiments in the study are superfluous and repulsive.”

Daimler/Mercedes Press release, January 29, 2018

“We believe that the scientific methods used to conduct the study were wrong and that it would have been better not to undertake it at all. The Volkswagen Group explicitly distances itself from all forms of animal cruelty. Animal testing is completely inconsistent with our corporate standards. We apologize for the inappropriate behavior that occurred and for the poor judgment of individuals who were involved.”

Statement issued by Volkswagen, January 29, 2018

“There is nothing fair about condemning these complex, sensitive animals to suffer physical suffering and psychological torment in laboratories where they are caged and deprived of fresh air, sunshine, freedom of movement, the companionship of others, and just about everything else that makes any life worth living,”

Harald Ullmann, PETA vice president, in a letter to Matthias Müller, chief executive officer of Volkswagen
International Foundation for Ethical Research Fellowship Recipients in Their Own Words

Erica Warkus / University of Hawaii
“If there is funding available for academic researchers to work on alternative model systems, then scientists will develop new, more ethical and effective non-animal models. That is why IFER’s mission is so critical—by supporting young scientists who want to reduce animal usage, IFER is helping to prepare the next generation of researchers to make fundamental changes in the way research is done.”

Michael Ferguson / Boston University
“Ultimately, if we can create perfect or near-perfect human tissues and organs in the lab from scratch, those can be used instead of animals in applications such as drug testing and biomedical research.”

Jean Liou / University of Pittsburgh
“There is no effective and preventative drug for osteoarthritis, which affects 10-15% people in the United States. This is due to the poor congruence between animal models and humans during drug testing. Our three-dimensional model that mimics bone/cartilage interface will serve as a replacement of animal use for osteoarthritic drug testing and I will focus on validating this model using our proposed human cells and hydrogel scaffolds.”

T.J. Puls / Purdue University
“Entering into graduate school, I was really shocked when I learned about the high failure rate of anti-cancer clinical trials (70-90% of drugs that enter clinical trials end up not being effective in humans), which is in large part due to the inability of 2D cell-based models and animal models to predict clinical outcomes. Being able to play a part in helping create more predictive models for the drug development process while also diving into the field of tissue engineering for my graduate studies was really appealing to me.”

Woojung Shin / The University of Texas at Austin
“I believe scientists who are working in biology, bioengineering, pharmacology and other relevant fields are aware of the limitations and ethical issues of using animal surrogates. I believe that the implementable pathway for achieving the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) can largely be explored by the scientists, where I am super proud of my current project in terms of the possibility to contribute to this trend.”

Nicholas Brookhouser / Arizona State University
“A lack of mechanistic understanding, as well as a failure of potential therapeutics in clinical trials can, in part, be attributed to the overreliance of animal models of Alzheimer’s disease, that in addition to ethical considerations, do not display important pathological hallmarks of the human disease and have not adequately modeled the complex genetics associated with sporadic Alzheimer’s disease.”

Read more about this year’s IFER Graduate Fellowship recipients on Pg. 10 of this issue of Animal Action.
Horses, sheep and pigs roaming through grassy pastures under a brilliant blue sky. Primates—from baboons to gibbons to macaques—swinging through their enclosures. A group of mice, happily huddled with others, taking a nap in fresh bedding with nothing expected from them except to just be mice.

Thanks to the hard work of those who run sanctuaries around the country, these are not merely dreams for animals who came from difficult pasts: they’re scenes from new lives rescued from neglect, abuse and disaster.

Through gifts to our Sanctuary Fund, NAVS and our supporters have been honored to play a role in the important work of sanctuaries, rescues and shelters around the country that are providing a safe haven to animals in need.

No matter their size, location or specialty, each of these places—and the dedicated people who run them—plays a unique role in the greater goal to create a more compassionate world.

AS DIVERSE AS THE ANIMALS THEY HELP
From coast to coast, from primates retired from research to turkeys who’ve escaped from the slaughterhouse, animal sanctuaries are providing homes and care for animals from all walks of life.

“The animals we care for are unadoptable due to old age, chronic illness, or fearfulness of humans—often due to abuse or neglect,” says Beth Randall, founder of Critter Camp Exotic Pet Sanctuary, of their residents. Many were once companion animals who were neglected or abused, and Critter Camp focuses on those who are small and unusual—filling a gap Beth noticed as she and her family first began the sanctuary.

“There was nowhere for the old, sick, aggressive or fearful [small animals] to go, except to be killed,” recalls Beth. “So we decided as a family to create a non-profit rescue devoted to these specific kinds of animals.” Throughout their history, Critter Camp has become the home to animals like...
Blackberry Creek’s best ambassadors. “He is filled with a foot of mud and manure, is one of the best teachers on their own. Though she and her husband have educational backgrounds, the animals themselves tend to be our teachers.”

Danielle Hanosh recognizes the way animals retired from research can be ambassadors for others who have not yet been as lucky. “[Research animals] are often the least talked about when it comes to animal rights, and sanctuaries have a responsibility to help educate the public about them” she says. “Having these animals in sanctuary care is ideal for helping people see them as sentient individuals and recognize when products [they buy] have a connection to the animal research industry.”

OUT OF THE LABORATORIES AND INTO THE SANCTUARIES!
The sanctuaries supported through the NAVS Sanctuary Fund help more than just animals retired from research. But as we come closer to achieving our mission to end the exploitation of animals used in science, the need for the space, care and expertise of sanctuaries of all kinds will grow exponentially.

Take, for instance, when the National Institutes of Health (NIH) ended their funding of invasive biomedical research on chimpanzees in 2015. While some of these chimpanzees have made their move to Chimp Haven, the National Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Keithville, Louisiana, for many of the animals, the “retirement” process has been extremely slow.

A mixture of lack of space and resources left Chimp Haven without enough room to receive all of the 301 available NIH chimpanzees. Expansions slated for completion in 2021 will increase their capacity to 330. The delay means that even though hundreds of chimpanzees have already made their way to the sanctuary, hundreds more government-owned or supported chimpanzees are still confined at research facilities. And for the many who are already classified as “geriatric,” time is running out for them to experience the lives they deserve.

The chimpanzees’ retirement is now facing an additional hurdle, as the possibility of having some chimpanzees “age in place” in the laboratories has once again been raised. (See story on pg. 8 to learn about this new possible threat to the chimps’ freedom.)

But with support for our Sanctuary Fund, NAVS will do more than “hope” that the promise made by NIH to retire all government-owned chimpanzees is not broken. NAVS is working with Chimp Haven to make retirement a reality for all these deserving animals as quickly as possible.

NAVS Executive Director Peggy Cunniff notes that “NAVS’ efforts to advance innovative, humane alternatives and to advocate for greater protections for animals would be almost pointless without the professional care, suitable habitats and compassion provided to animals at sanctuaries as the cages are emptied. I am confident that countless more animals will need new homes and exceptional care as our efforts continue.”

Some sanctuaries, like Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary in Gainesville, Florida, have already established programs to specifically support former research animals. Their Research Retirement Fund helps the hundreds of monkeys they’ve been asked to take in over the years from research laboratories, with more requests coming in all the time. The NAVS Sanctuary Fund is proud to have been helping Jungle Friends since 2002, with 199 ex-research monkeys and counting benefiting from our grants.

“The research monkeys who come to us from invasive research and who are isolated for decades are the most traumatized,” says Kari Bagnall, Jungle Friends’ Founder and Executive Director. They may present a host of new challenges for sanctuaries, but these monkeys, like all animals retired from research, are just as deserving at a chance at a life where they get to be just animals—not test subjects.

The NAVS Sanctuary Fund is a lifeline to animals in need all across the country. Learn more about the Fund and find out how you can help change animals’ lives forever and for the better at www.navs.org/sanctuary.
This November will mark three years since the announcement by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that it would end its support of invasive biomedical research on chimpanzees. Per the CHIMP (Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection) Act, which established Chimp Haven as the National Chimpanzee Sanctuary, and subsequent legislation, this meant that all NIH-owned and supported chimpanzees would be guaranteed permanent retirement in a sanctuary.

As staunch supporters of the CHIMP Act and Chimp Haven, as well as the end of the use of all animals in science, NAVS celebrated this important victory. But as we look back on this historic moment, the sad truth is that the promise made to these animals hasn’t been fulfilled.

In 2016, our Animal Action cover story “The Waiting Game” outlined the first wave of problems. We detailed a Government Accountability Office report that revealed that while the animals were no longer being used for experiments, there were no plans in place to transfer most chimpanzees to sanctuaries. The costs and time associated with constructing housing and relocating hundreds of chimpanzees have further contributed to the delay.

But with the population of chimpanzees aging, time continues to run out to get them out of research facilities and into their sanctuary. An estimated 5-10% of the current population of NIH chimpanzees still held in labs will die each year because of disease or old age.

Now, another threat risks keeping some of these chimpanzees from true retirement.

The move to have chimps “age in place” in research facilities instead of moving them to their sanctuary has long been advocated by the research community. At a recent NIH meeting on chimpanzee retirement, a council member even suggested “aging in place” as an alternative to its original directive to transfer all government-owned or supported chimpanzees to Chimp Haven.

Following years of pressure from the research community, this notion, unfortunately, continues to gain traction. The NIH recently announced the organization of a working group whose purpose will be “to develop recommendations for veterinarians to consider when determining whether or not to move a chimpanzee” from the laboratory to Chimp Haven—not how best to move them, but whether they should even be moved in the first place.

Proponents of “aging-in-place” cite animal well-being as a primary reason to keep chimpanzees from being transferred to sanctuaries, but this argument has been called into question. In a 2017 article in Science magazine, primatologist Frans de Waal of Emory University criticized the group housing found at many research facilities as having “stress-causing design.” De Waal also said that even the best environments at research facilities don’t compare to a true sanctuary like Chimp Haven.

Money is also a consideration. Research laboratories receive as much as $80 per day, per animal, to house the “retired” chimpanzees—far more than it costs to care for the chimpanzees in an ethologically-appropriate sanctuary setting. That adds up to millions of dollars per year in revenue for the labs that goes out the door along with the chimpanzees.

The CHIMP Act was designed to be a humane, cost-effective solution for chimpanzees retired from research. Sadly, “aging in place” is neither humane nor cost-effective.

The NIH working group’s recommendations will have life-changing consequences for animals who have already been subjected to so much and waited so long, and whose time to be able to experience freedom is running out.

NAVS is urging the NIH to be fully transparent regarding the membership of the working group, emphasizing the importance of the group being free of any advisors with a vested interest in keeping the chimpanzees in labs. We feel that a group designed to address the chimpanzees’ fates should be comprised exclusively of veterinarians, behaviorists and other specialists with the expertise in safely transporting and caring for the chimpanzees as they make their way to Chimp Haven.

“Aging-in-place” would represent yet another tragic blow to the hope that began with the passage of the CHIMP Act. After years—and in some cases decades—of having their bodies and minds abused and exploited, it is time to keep the promise made to these chimpanzees and to give them the retirement they deserve.

**FULFILLING A PROMISE OF FREEDOM FOR CHIMPANZEES**

NAVS is committed to supporting the sanctuaries that will make true retirement for these chimpanzees—and all “retired” research primates—possible. Learn more about our APES (Assisting Primates Entering Sanctuary) Campaign at [www.navs.org/APES](http://www.navs.org/APES).
Each year, the International Foundation for Ethical Research (IFER), an affiliate of NAVS, offers Graduate Fellowships for Alternatives to the Use of Animals in Science to support the research of student scholars working to develop more human-relevant models and to lessen reliance on animal experimentation.

Since 1985, IFER has awarded grants totaling more than $1 million to promising young scientists who are developing alternatives to animal use in research, product testing and education that will help further NAVS’ mission of ending the exploitation of animals used in science. At the same time, IFER-funded projects are investigating methodologies that hold greater promise of finding treatments and cures that will help people and animals.

Guided by recommendations of the IFER Scientific Advisory Board, which selects projects based on their scientific merit and potential impact on animal use, we are pleased to announce that IFER is funding seven early career researchers who are developing innovative, human-relevant scientific approaches to reduce and replace animal use for our 2017-18 grant cycle.

Meet the Next Generation of IFER-funded Humane Researchers

JEAN LIOU
University of Pittsburgh
Sponsor: Dr. Rocky Tuan
“Application of Human iPSC-derived Mesenchymal Progenitor Cells to Develop Osteochondral Microtissues for Osteoarthritis Drug Testing”

T.J. PULS
Purdue University, Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering
Sponsor: Dr. Sherry Voytik-Harbin
“Engineering Novel 3D Tumor-Stroma to Bridge the Gap Between Preclinical Models and Human Clinical Outcomes”
Two new Graduate Fellowship recipients have been selected to receive an award, and five grants have been renewed.

Among our new awardees is Nicholas Brookhouser, a student at Arizona State University. Nicholas is using a cell-based approach to better understand Alzheimer’s disease, a condition that impacts over five million Americans.

“Reliance on animal models in preclinical studies may contribute, in part, to the copious failed clinical trials related to Alzheimer’s therapy,” Nicholas notes. “I believe a human disease model is necessary to uncover the subtleties of the disease mechanism that may be necessary for therapeutic design.”

Rather than use animals in his research, Nicholas wanted to use a more human-relevant approach. He will be generating three-dimensional neuronal models using cells derived from Alzheimer’s patients and individuals without dementia. He will specifically be investigating how ApoE, a prominent risk factor associated with Alzheimer’s disease, contributes to disease onset and progression by generating cells that contain different ApoE variants. He will then determine how variations in ApoE influence different traits associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

“Overall, the use of pluripotent stem cells allows us to address many experimental questions that would otherwise require numerous animals to examine,” Nicholas says.

Michael Ferguson, a Master’s degree student in Biomedical Engineering at Boston University, received a Graduate Student Fellowship for his project, which incorporates blood vessels into stem cell-derived organoids to allow them to better mimic the anatomy and physiology of the native tissues they are modeling.

“I think that many (if not most) biomedical researchers, whether basic or applied, would ultimately like to see their work help reduce human disease and suffering,” Michael says.

“With that goal in mind, it is obvious to me that we have to work with human tissues. There are just too many differences between humans and animals. And as you can imagine, these differences have led to a lot of failed (and sometimes deadly) treatments that were shown to work in animals. In the past, the technology to experiment with human tissues in the lab has been really limited. New technologies such as organoids are reducing the limitations, but are still very limited themselves, so naturally I was inspired to work on making them better not just to save animals, but to save humans.”

To help improve organoid models, Michael is integrating blood vessels into organoids which would allow adequate delivery of oxygen and nutrients and help the organoids grow beyond their “mini” state. Doing so would allow human tissues to be grown in the lab which can be used in place of animals in many areas of research.

NAVS is proud to support the work of the International Foundation for Ethical Research and its researchers whose interest in developing innovative alternatives to animal experiments also recognize that better science will not just save animal lives, but human lives as well.

Please visit www.navs.org/IFER to meet this year’s fellowship recipients and learn more about how their cutting-edge research has the potential to reduce and replace animal use in science.
You live your life with respect and compassion for all living creatures. But how will you ensure that this commitment to caring extends beyond your lifetime?

By making a planned gift to the National Anti-Vivisection Society, you can help ensure that what matters most to you will continue to be there for the next generation of animal advocates.

And thanks to the numerous tax benefits which may be available, your gift will help not only NAVS, but also you and your loved ones.

Learn more about leaving a gift to NAVS through your will or estate plan. Call 312-427-6065 to request a free copy of our newly-updated planned giving guide, “Your Legacy of Compassion.” You can also download the guide at www.navs.org/legacy.