

JAVA NEWS No.110 English ver.

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An Experiment that Involved Killing Five Cats at Rakuno Gakuen University was Canceled at the Last Moment!

In October 2022, some students at Rakuno Gakuen University urgently requested JAVA's help to stop an experiment that was scheduled on October 26th which involved killing cats. With less than a week until the scheduled date, JAVA immediately sent a letter to the president of the university and called the professor who was going to conduct the experiment and strongly requested that it be cancelled.

The planned experiment was cruel in that cats were to be artificially made septic and killed after the experiment. The cats that were scheduled to be used in the experiment were lovingly cared for and raised by students every day. Although the university was aware of this, they did not inform the students until only a week before the planned experiment date. Even more, some students were not even informed until the very day of the experiment. The students were terribly shocked and stood up in order to deter this. They asked JAVA for help, expressed their opposition to the professors, launched an online petition campaign, spread their messages on social media and desperately raised their voices. As a result of their efforts, the experiment was decided to postpone until the 30th on the night before the scheduled day. Just as JAVA was planning to take further action, on the 27th, the university decided to cancel the experiment altogether! The university listened to our voice in making that decision.

The university also officially announced the cancellation on their website, and in this announcement, they said that they received numerous messages expressing concerns from stakeholders such as the students and JAVA. In addition, at a later date, JAVA received a reply from the president in response to JAVA's request. Although JAVA assisted the students in their cause, it was their hard work that led the university to this decision. So, we express our respect to the students who raised their voices for their courage and ability to take action.



Rakuno Gakuen University's website "Cancellation of an animal experiment plan" (Japanese)

<https://www.rakuno.ac.jp/archives/24441.html>

We're collecting signatures!

We do request the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to abolish the project, breeding and supplying Japanese snow monkeys for animal experiments

The National BioResource Project “Japanese Macaques” which has continued breeding and supplying Japanese macaques for animal experiments for over 20 years. We have started a signature campaign to request the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to end this project. We're collecting signatures for it. Thank you for your cooperation.



What is the National BioResource Project (NBRP)?

It is a major project initiated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in 2002 to collect and stably provide bio-resources (biological and genetic resources) such as animals, plants, microorganisms so-called experiment materials. Various species of animals such as mice, rats, birds, fish, amphibians, insects and others as well as Japanese Macaques are being handled (as of January 2023).

The project for “Japanese Macaques” which referred the primates centers in the United States set a goal to collect 1,500~2,400 macaques as a mother group and supply 300 macaques for experiments every year. And to make a mother group, overbred Japanese Macaques are collected from zoos and wild monkey parks, and total number of 982 baby monkeys were sent to the 35 universities and research institutes from 2006 to 2021. This project is run by Center for the Evolutionary Origins of Human Behavior, Kyoto University (EHUB) as Core Center (It used to be Kyoto University Primate Research Institute (KUPRI) until 2022) and National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS) as sub-Core Center.

We JAVA had been against it since they were collecting monkeys for a mother group

For collecting monkeys for a mother group, about 20 years ago three zoos in Japan agreed with KUPRI as Core Center of the project at that time to supply monkeys, but two of them decided to cancel due to strong protests from JAVA. We continued to fight against the remaining one, Sapporo Maruyama ZOO. We did as much as we could: signature activities, appeal actions in front of MEXT and Sapporo City Hall, discussions

with MEXT, Maruyama ZOO and Sapporo City, a request for resident audit, and a trial. However, the Supreme Court dismissed our appeal. And then the zoo sent 45 monkeys to KURPI in 2005.



Monkeys in Maruyama ZOO. 45 of them were sent to KURPI.

We have reached out to MEXT and others since 2020

The book published in October 2020 revealed the actual situation of business reduction and surplus monkeys by the interviews with people involved in the project. This brought the issue of the project back to the fore. For this reason, JAVA, together with the animal protection group PEACE (Put an End to Animal Cruelty and Exploitation), which is also collaborating in other activities, sent open questionnaires and requested information disclosure to MEXT, KUPRI (at that time) and NIPS in order to confirm the status of Japanese macaques and results of past projects. We have been working to stop breeding and supplying of Japanese macaques and to end the project. However, they do not disclose informations such as the source of the maternal monkeys and the providing destination of the bred monkeys.



On September 29th 2021, we met with the representative of MEXT and submitted our request form. From right side, Takashi Tuziyama (Senior Specialist for Life Sciences at MEXT (at that time)), Sachiko Azuma (Chair at PEACE), Satoko Wazaki (Head of Secretariat at JAVA)

Breaking away from the experimental use of animals especially primates, which have been highly criticized

In recent years, there has been a growing trend to avoid the use of animals in science. For example, in 2010, the EU specified that “this Directive represents an important step forward achieving the final goal of full replacement of procedures on live animals for scientific and educational purposes as soon as it is scientifically possible to do so,” in “EU directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes” which member states are obliged to comply with. Furthermore, on September 15th, 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the European Commission to establish an action plan to actively phase out the use of animal experiments. In addition, the Netherlands has already declared that it will become global leader in innovation without relying on experimental animals by 2025.

Japanese macaques live in groups of about 10 to 100 monkeys, centered around females and children, and lead complex and highly social lives. It is well known that they are very intelligent animals with excellent memory and cognitive abilities. Japanese macaques are animals that do not have a fixed roost and live on the move. Their range of activity extends from several to several dozen square kilometers, and sometimes even up to 100 square kilometers in some cases.

There is significant international criticism of using primates, which have high cognitive abilities and social skills for animal experiments and there is no future for primates as the resource that is moving toward stricter regulations and NBRP “Japanese Macaques.” Japan should also aim to abolish the experiment using animals, including the primates.



The future of the Japanese macaques kept in Amami Wild Animal Research Center

Furthermore, regarding the project, there is an issue of what to do with the monkeys of Amami Wild Animal Research Center, which is subcontractor for the project by the NIPS. The center has been keeping 163 Japanese macaques as of March 31th, 2022, but they are no longer breeding. The researchers who use monkeys in experiments and the businesses which profit from the results of the experiments, they would have a responsibility to provide the monkeys with natural and animal welfare circumstances to spend the rest of their lives calm.

In 2019, MEXT finally acknowledged that the subcontracted private institution was Amami Wild Animal Research Center in response to questions from the Diet. We have a strong distrust of the project and MEXT, which have stubbornly refused to disclose to us which private institutions receive huge budgets each year without competitive bidding, and how much the commission fees have been paid each year. Regarding to the treatment of the monkeys kept in Amami Wild Animal Research Center, we sent a total of three questionnaires to both Core Center and Sub-Core Center, but they replied that they were still considering it. We have already requested the both to announce details as soon as the policy has been determined. But when we met with the representative of MEXT in September 2021, just they said, “Killing the monkeys has not even been considered.” No further information was provided.

They ignored the request and started the 5th period

We are not against NBRP its own. We just want to abolish animal experiments and tackle developing alternative methods with sufficient budget instead of animal victims. We suggest using human cells or tissues as resources that are necessary to the alternative methods. However, MEXT didn't accept our request and decided to continue NBRP “Japanese Macaques” for the 5th period (from April 2022 to March 2027). Moreover, the amount of subsidies to be issued to Core Center and Sub-Core Center were the same, and it was found that there was no intention of downsizing the project.

Started a signature campaign to the Minister of MEXT

Please support us!

In April 2023, JAVA and PEACE have started a signature campaign to request the Minister of MEXT to end NBRP “Japanese Macaques” by the end of 5th period (Signature campaign deadline: on March 31st, 2025).

- 1. NBRP “Japanese Macaques” project should be terminated by the end of the 5th period.**
- 2. In the 6th period, we request that you reduce the number of projects adapted applications not only for the Japanese Macaques but also for other animal species as much as possible, and support projects that lead to the development of research methods that do not involve animal experiments.**

Click this link and sign your name please.

<https://www.change.org/stop-NBRPmonkey-en>

Notification: Requests for donations displayed after signing or on the signature page are donations to Change.org, not for JAVA and PEACE. Signing is free. Your signature deserves to change the world.

Thank you for your cooperation.

<Revision of the Animal Welfare Act> Examination of Care and Management Standards of Reptiles is Underway

It has been three years since the revised the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals (hereinafter referred to as the Animal Welfare Act) came into effect on June 1st, 2020. The revision work of ministerial ordinances related to this revised law is still ongoing. Article 21 of the revised law stipulates that a detailed “The care and management standards apply to all animal handling businesses” be created. The “Cats and Dogs Care and Management Standards” in this revised principle, which was a great deal of attention because it specifically includes the size of cages for cats and dogs, the maximum number of cats and dogs to be kept and cared for by each employee, and the number of births in a lifetime, has been in force since June 1st, 2021.

Examination of standards for the care and management of animals other than cats and dogs begins

Under Article 21, the animal care and management standards are to be defined for “animals” which are handled by animal traders. This means that mammals, birds, and reptiles other than cats and dogs are also covered. However, the Ministry of the Environment initially intended to use the standards as they were before the law was revised, except for dogs and cats. Therefore, JAVA has been continuing to lobby the Ministry of the Environment to revise the standards for the care of animals other than dogs and cats together

with the Animal Rights Center Japan and PEACE, which is jointly working on revision of the Act. Moreover, our supporters also voiced their desire to “establish proper standards for mammals other than cats and dogs, birds and reptiles as soon as possible.” As a result, the Ministry announced that it would proceed to consider standards for them.

In October 2022, a committee of experts set up by the Ministry of the Environment began discussions on the formulation of standards for the care and management of mammals other than dogs and cats. In addition, a working group on reptiles husbandry and management standards was set up under this committee and began discussing reptile husbandry and management standards in November of the same year.

Request for reptile care and management standards

We have reported on the malicious display and sale of reptiles at exotic animal exhibition and sale, where snakes and lizards are placed in packs for side dishes that they cannot move and turtles are placed in cases those are the same size as their bodies. The best way to improve these issues is to stop the display and sale of reptiles, but specific and strict standards for reptile care and management are a priority and essential in the current situation. Our three organizations prepared a draft reptile care and management standard that included many points, such as “the Cats and Dogs Care and Management Standards should be adapted to



reptiles where suitable,” “the minimum size of breeding space per reptile,” and “reptiles should have suitable shelters (nests, places to hide, perches, etc.) for their species,” and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment in February 2023. In the same month, also at a working group on reptiles held, PEACE attended as representatives of three organizations and strongly appealed to the committee members for our requests.

Photo shows lizards being sold in small side dish cups at an exotic animal exhibition and sale

Keio Shonan Fujisawa Senior High School Pushed to Dissect Piglet Carcasses!

In the previous issue of “JAVA NEWS No.109,” we reported that JAVA had been strongly requesting Keio Shonan Fujisawa Junior and Senior High School to abolish the dissection practices of animal carcasses, organs and parts.

It was subsequently learned that a dissection practice of piglet carcasses would be conducted in senior high school first-year basic biology class during January 2023. Therefore, JAVA called on its members and supporters to take action against the school. However, the school ignored the many voices of opposition and

the wishes of the students to eliminate the dissection practices, and pushed to conduct the dissection in all six first-year senior high school classes.



There are many problems with dissection practices, whether of living or dead bodies, such as the negative impact on children's psyches and the disruption of their sense of bioethics. The school does not force students to participate in the dissection practices. However, the students who have consulted with JAVA about the elimination of the dissection practices from their school do not think that it will be okay if they do not dissect themselves, but they are distressed by the fact that animals are being used as tools for practical training and being mutilated at their school.

Please raise your voice against the dissection practices so that it will never be conducted again.

Keio Shonan Fujisawa Junior and Senior High School

Principal, Mr. Yoshikazu Onoe

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Email:sfcjs@info.keio.ac.jp

Fur News

Fur Free Alliance (FFA) is an international coalition of about 50 animal protection organizations working collaboratively to eliminate fur. JAVA is also a member of this coalition. Member organizations cooperate and continue activities to abolish fur. In this issue of JAVA News, we will tell you about brands which stopped using fur and also the movements related to fur farms in a few countries.

Two fashion brands are now fur free!!

FFA has the world's leading program "Fur Free Retailer Program" which recognizes retailers who have committed to a no fur policy. At present, nearly 1,600 brands including Gucci, H&M and Prada have abandoned fur fashion and joined the program. The following two brands have also joined the ranks.

■ G-Star RAW

In December 2022, Dutch denim brand G-Star RAW which has more than 4,500 points of sale in 55 countries worldwide, pledged to be permanently free of animal fur and joined "Fur Free Retailer Program." Although the Dutch denim brand does not use fur in any of its products currently, the move signifies that the brand is taking a clear stance against animal cruelty and will keep moving towards a more sustainable and ethical business model.

■ HERNO

In February 2023, Italian long-established luxury brand HERNO announced that it would stop using fur from its Fall/Winter 2023 collection and joined “Fur Free Retailer Program.” This is the result of the activities of Italian animal protection organization LAV which is a member of the FFA.



The movements related to fur farms

■ Latvia: Bans on fur farming!

On September 22nd, 2022, the Latvian parliament adopted a bill to amend the Animal Protection Act, which will completely ban the breeding of fur animals, which will enter into force on January 1st, 2028. Currently, at least 300,000 minks, as well as several hundred foxes and chinchillas, are killed for fur in Latvia every year, and fur farms will gradually finish their business in five years until prohibition. Over the last 10 years, Latvian animal rights association and a member of FFA, Dzīvnieku brīvība has been campaigning for the ban on fur farming, and this effort bore fruit.

■ Finland: Shocking film on fur farms has been released

On January 19th, 2023, a footage of fur farms in Finland has been released by animal protection organizations Oikeutta eläimille and Humane Society International/Europe. The foxes in the footage are in terrible condition with swollen infected eyes and ears and injured and bloodied tails. The footage also shows obese “monster foxes” with huge skin folds from selective breeding and baby foxes cannibalising their dead siblings.



Oikeutta eläimille filmed at six randomly selected fur farms in the Ostrobothnia region of western Finland between June and November in 2022.

Fox fur originating from Finland is used by brands including Fendi, Yves Salomon, and Max Mara.

Obese “monster fox” with huge skin folds from selective breeding.

You can watch the film below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF5M-eK_XPk

■ Norway: Shut down all fur farms ahead of schedule

In mid-January of 2023, the last mink farm in Norway closed and there are no more fur farms in this country. Norwegian animal protection organization NOAH has been working to end fur farming since 1989. Its next goal is for Norway to implement a ban on import of fur products and the government is currently considering a bill to ban it.

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments Participation Report

The meeting was held at the University of Shizuoka, Kusanagi Campus from November 18 (Fri) to 20 (Sun) 2022 in its original form-without being held online and held only at the venue-for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak.

The theme of this meeting was “3Rs in a new era developed by collaboration and cooperation.” According to the organizer, about 580 people attended the meeting. Here is a report on some of the presentations we heard.

Symposium

Strategic use of modeling & simulation for pivotal contribution to the 3Rs principles

At the beginning, Chair Satomi Onoue, Ph.D. (Professor at the University of Shizuoka) explained the purpose of holding this symposium saying “we are working on the 3Rs every day, but when it is difficult to conduct in vitro studies alone, especially in biokinetic studies, we try to combine various methods. Here, they will present their research using in silico.”

Then, the following four presentations were made.

- **In silico modeling & simulation for efficient inhalation toxicity testing on chemicals**
Kohei Yamada (Laboratory of Biopharmacy, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Shizuoka)
- **Prediction of internal concentrations of chemicals using data-driven pharmacokinetic modeling**
Hiroshi Yamazaki (Laboratory of Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetics, Showa Pharmaceutical University)
- **Modeling & simulation approach for prediction of pharmacokinetics of antibody drugs**
Kazuhisa Ozeki (Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. Translational Research Division)
- **Predicting the in vivo performance of oral dosage forms using a modeling and simulation approach**
Atsushi Kambayashi (Pharmaceutical Research and Technology Labs, Astellas Pharma Inc.)

Panel discussion

Different microphysiological systems for different context of use?

[Chair, moderator]

Seichi Ishida (Sojo University)

Kousei Ito (Chiba University)

[Panelists]

Kumiko Ogawa (Division of Pathology, National Institute of Health Sciences)

Kazutoshi Saito (The International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Japan)

Yuhji Taquahashi (Division of Cellular and Molecular Toxicology, Center for Biological Safety & Research, National Institute of Health Sciences)

Takashi Yamada (Division of Risk Assessment, National Institute of Health Sciences)

Tomoya Yamada (Environmental Health Science Laboratory, Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.)

First, moderator Seiichi Ishida, Ph.D., who is conducting research on Microphysiological System (MPS), gave a brief explanation of the current situation in Japan and overseas, including the MPS project by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the sales situation of MPS by overseas companies. After that, the issues related to the use of MPS (especially as a method of assessing biokinetics) were discussed by the panelists, who are experts in various fields including human pathology, biokinetics of food ingredient, chemical exposure and safety assessment, pesticide risk assessment, and various other fields.

Many of the presentations and opinions at the symposiums on MPS at this conference usually have high expectations for MPS. However, here, all the panelists acknowledged the necessity and significance of MPS, but many of them also commented that MPS has not yet reached the point where it can be utilized in terms of reproducibility, how to examine insoluble materials, etc., and that the scope of its utilization is limited.

It was interesting to hear the opinions of experts in various fields, as it brought to light the challenges of MPS, which, if solved, could lead to the development and practical application of MPS.

Symposium

Development of a Next Generation Risk Assessment (NGRA): Towards a new animal-free risk assessment for systemic toxicity of cosmetics

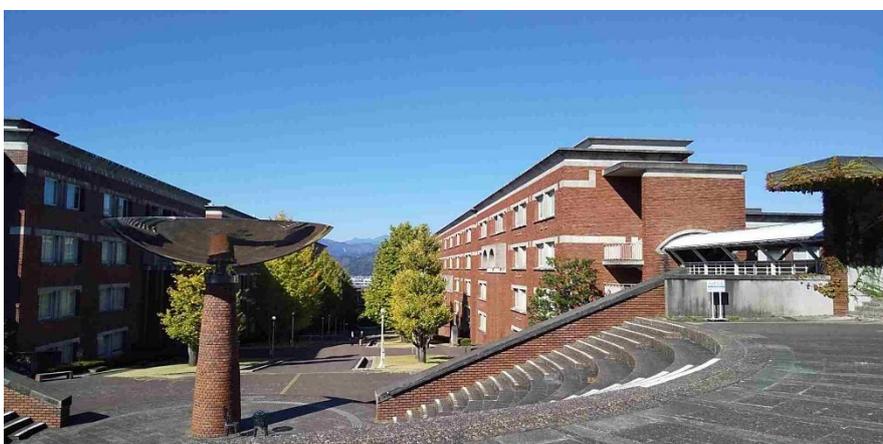
At the beginning, Chair Akemi Toyoda Ph.D (Pola Chemical Industries, Inc.) explained the purpose of the symposium saying “in the 10 years since the ban on animal experiments of cosmetics in the EU in 2013, and many kinds of alternative methods have been developed. However, the issue of repeated doses of cosmetics for systemic toxicity has yet to be addressed. This symposium was organized to discuss and resolve that.”

Dr. Morihiko Hirota (Brand Value R&D Institute, Shiseido Co., Ltd. / Japan Cosmetic Industry Association) and Dr. Takashi Yamada (Division of Risk Assessment, National Institute of Health Sciences) expressed hope for New Generation Risk Assessment (NGRA), which attempts to comprehensively assess risk by combining New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), which does not use animals, on the other hand, they took severe look at it such as “NGRA seems to be making progress, but it is tough. The challenge is the reliability of NAMs. The methods lack coherence, such as the use of different software,” and “there are still many uncertainties.”

Dr. Yuhji Taquahashi (Animal Care Section, Division of Cellular and Molecular Toxicology, Center for

Biological Safety & Research, National Institute of Health Sciences) pointed out problems of both animal experiments and NAMs such as “In vivo systemic toxicity evaluation predicts human safety from animal experimental data, but there is always uncertainty involved,” and “systemic toxicity from NAMs is expected to be evaluated by a combination of alternative methods. It is necessary to consider to that the predictions from alternative methods are animal experimental data and not human safety and thus contain further uncertainty.”

The audience also commented that “it is not good to use alternative methods to animal experiments to investigate human safety,” and JAVA agrees with this opinion. We also feel that there are problems with the current alternative methods because they are made based on comparisons with data from animal experiments. Dr. Taquahashi continued “toxicity evaluation by NAMs is difficult because there are many issues and other things that need to be verified. However, it is important to continue to seek and study the ideal goal of not using animals at all.” It was impressive to hear such a statement from an animal experimenter.



The place of the annual meeting “Kusanagi campus of The University of Shizuoka”

The Regulation Concerning the Red-eared Sliders in the Amendment to the Invasive Alien Species Act will be Enforced Starting on June 1st

“Invasive Alien Species Act” amended last year, has been fully in force starting on April 1st, 2023. The following actions will no longer be allowed of the Red-eared sliders unless permitted by the cabinet minister in charge.

- Import
- Sale
- Buying
- Releasing
- Raising for the purpose of sale or distribution
- Transferring for sale, purchase, or distribution



Unfortunately, there are many Red-eared sliders that are already being owned and raised in this country. Hence, exceptions have been made to the amendment mentioned above for the current owners. For the time being, “personal ownership” and “transferring of ownership without any monetary exchange” will continue to be allowed for pre-existing owners of the Red-eared sliders.

The above special measure is to be placed with the intent to avoid the current owners from releasing their unwanted Red-eared sliders into the wild. This would hopefully avoid the Red-eared sliders from further damaging the ecosystem. Furthermore, as of June 1st, the above prohibitions and special measures will also apply to the American crayfishes that are in the same situation as Red-eared sliders.

While we consider this new amendment to be a big step towards our goal, we at JAVA will further continue to advocate for stricter regulations. This would include a breeding ban which we could not put in place this time.

If you want to learn more about our latest activities, please read [JAVA NEWS No.108 English ver.](#) and [JAVA NEWS No.109 English ver.](#)

News from other countries

In these pages, we introduced some news articles selected from the newsletters and email news sent from overseas organizations. JAVA NEWS No.110 carries the following four articles. The four articles were translated into Japanese to share them with the readers.

You can read the original articles appeared in JAVA NEWS No.110 at the URL below:

[Trois projets de recherche sur la douleur et le stress approuvés en 2022](#) (One Voice)

[EGYPTAIR STOPS TRANSPORTING MONKEYS FOR RESEARCH](#) (CFI)

[Lawsuit Reveals Existence of Photos of Neuralink’s Monkey Experiments, Complaint Sparks Federal Investigation](#) (PCRM)

[5 Reasons the Egg Shortage Is a Good Thing](#) (PETA)

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