

Words of Enlightenment

Mid-Missouri AALAS Branch

September Meeting

The Art of Cat Handling

Speaking: Dr. Laura Tambrallo

When: Sept 18th, 2014

Time: 5:30pm

Where: RADIL 4011 Discovery Dr. Columbia MO

FOOD: Taco Food Bar

Please RSVP to your AALAS Rep or Online

www.midmoaalas.org



Volume 2, Issue 2
September 8, 2014

Special points of interest:

- September meeting
- October Board Meeting
- Animal Welfare

Mid-Missouri AALAS's New Logo!!!

We want to thank Amanda Teel for designing our new logo.

Do you have ideas on how we can use this more or get this out there more? Then join us Oct 9th at our next Board Meeting!



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Training Animals for Conscious Studies

Written by Laura Klekar – Research Scientist and ACTS Consultant

Working with animals in research can be both rewarding and challenging. There are many different methods utilized in Biomedical Research to obtain scientific data. Collecting data from conscious animals can be one of the most challenging. Not only is there consideration for the animal's well-being and for collecting accurate data, but a relationship of cooperation also needs to be developed.

To properly and effectively gather data from a conscious animal, the Research Scientist must create an atmosphere of trust and active engagement with the laboratory animals. One of the main methods of creating this atmosphere is through a positively reinforced training and enrichment program. Without an effective training program in place that utilizes positive reinforcement, collecting data on a conscious animal can become time-consuming, difficult, result in needless repetition and may require the use of more animals. All of these go against the three R's- Refinement, Reduce and Reuse.

There is always a need on Biomedical Research for high quality data while still maintaining high standards and adhering to regulations. Developing thought out procedures that include well-planned training programs leads to better data and adherence to regulations while maintaining the spirit of the 3R's. Training programs that involve working with conscious animals need to consider many factors including– human and animal's safety, the animal's natural behaviors, time, research requirements and government regulations and policy. The type of animal involved in the study will also determine the nature of the training program. Some lab animals such as rabbits, rats and guinea pigs may require only a few training periods before data collection. Lab animals such as dogs, primates, pigs and cats require more training sessions before they are ready for data collection.

During my years as a Research Scientist I have conducted conscious animal studies on rabbits, rats, guinea pigs, cats and NHP. All have their own unique challenges and methods. However, with all species, there is a designated time period in which the animal needs to acclimate to transport, handling, restraint and the data collection procedures. A guinea pig or rabbit may just take a couple of days, where a cat or NHP can take years before quality data is obtained, depending on the data collection methods. Developing trust and cooperation require patience, time, and understanding of the specie's behaviors. Before any animal is taken to the next step in the training and acclimation process, the animal should accept the previous step with minimal stress. This is truly a step-by-step process.

While preparing animals for conscious experiments may take additional time, it also helps eliminate certain factors that can possibly interfere with data results. The Research Scientist is able to gather data that may otherwise be compromised by sedatives, anesthesia or undue stress. Those who go through the process of acclimating and training their research animals to conscious study procedures may find that they are able to reduce stress in the animals while creating a more pleasant experience for all involved.



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Lauren Delaney, DVM

Hello Mid-Missouri AALAS! My name is Lauren Delaney and I'm one of the veterinarians at Sinclair Research, a CRO outside of Columbia. I've been asked to share a little bit about myself and how I ended up in the lab animal field. After a childhood spent riding horses and begging my parents for a dog, choosing veterinary medicine as a career was a no-brainer. My path to lab animal medicine, however, was not as direct. During vet school, a summer research program piqued my interest, but I still wasn't quite ready to abandon the idea of becoming the next James Herriot. It wasn't until I

stumbled upon a job opening at Sinclair that I realized that a career in research offered many of the things I had been looking for. And I haven't been disappointed! Each day presents new veterinary challenges and opportunities to collaborate with scientists all over the country. I have the privilege of working with many species of animals; everything from guinea pigs to non-human primates. I also take great pride in the fact that our daily work helps improve human and animal lives. Thank you for all that you do to further scientific knowledge and make the world a better place!



Lauren Delaney, DVM
Staff Vet at Sinclair Research Center

Board Meeting— October 9 at 5:30pm at Heidelberg Restaurant

We like to plan our events out for most of the upcoming year. New ideas and new faces are always welcome!

Have you thought about becoming an officer, but not sure what it entails? Come in and join us and learn what it takes!! Really it takes a passion for the animals and the research and the desire to share that knowledge!

- Things such as:
- Social Event ideas
- Meeting Topic Ideas
- Working on the Newsletter
- Outreach Opportunities
- & many more!

Be a part of the board, become an officer, or help on a committee!! Even consider all of the above!

Want to become a sponsor?

Visit our website at:
www.midmoaalas.org

There you can sign up. You could see your logo here!

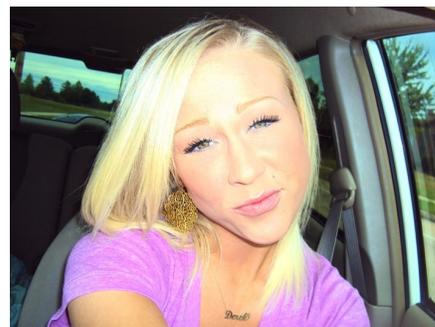
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Amanda Teel, Marketing Specialist, Sinclair Research Center

When I applied for an Animal Technician position I thought I'd like it for the most part since I do really love animals but it would be temporary until I could find something closer to the degree I graduated with, which was a BA in Arts and Science and a major in graphic design, not exactly an animal sciences degree. What I didn't expect to happen was that I'd truly grow to love the position, learn as much as I did, and be a part of helping humans and animals by trying to find ways to improve life!

Animal research just plays such a crucial role in our understanding of different diseases, and coming up with effective medical treatments. Without "Our Little Heros" this would be impossible. Unless you are comfortable being tested on yourself, or maybe your kid? Which I am not, so I was very grateful to be taking care of the animals who do so much for us all.



*Amanda has created our new logo!

Amanda Teel, Sinclair Research Center

Welfare vs. Rights

The issues surrounding the philosophies of animal rights and animal welfare are very familiar to those who utilize animals in industry, entertainment, sport or recreation. As society has migrated from our agricultural roots to a more urban existence, the importance of distinguishing between animal rights and animal welfare becomes paramount.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal Welfare, as defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association, is a human responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and, when necessary, humane euthanasia.

Animal welfare proponents seek to improve the treatment and well-being of animals.

Animal welfare proponents believe that humans can interact with animals in entertainment, industry, sport and recreation, and industry, but that the interaction should include provisions for the proper care and management for all animals involved.

Animal welfare proponents support self-regulation of animal sports, including rodeo, polo, three-day eventing, FFA competitions, horse racing, field trials and endurance riding.

Animal welfare groups utilize scientific evidence to base animal care and handling guidelines.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Animal Rights is a philosophical view that animals have rights similar too or the same as humans. True animal rights proponents believe that humans do not have the right to use animals at all. Animal rights proponents wish to ban all use of animals by humans.

Animal rights proponents support laws and regulations that would prohibit rodeos,

“Animal welfare groups utilize scientific evidence to base animal care and handling guidelines.”

horse racing, circuses, hunting, life-saving medical research using animals, raising of livestock for food, petting zoos, marine parks, breeding of purebred pets and any use of animals for industry, entertainment, sport or recreation.

Animal rights proponents believe that violence, misinformation and publicity stunts are valid uses of funding donated to their tax-exempt organizations for the purpose of helping animals.

Arson, vandalism and assault are common tactics used by underground animal rights groups to further the animal rights cause. Groups such as the Animal Liberation Front, which has been classified as a terrorist organization by the FBI, routinely use criminal activities to further their cause.

***From
www.animalwelfarecouncil.com**

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Animal Welfare and Animal Rights: A war of words with casualties mounting



April 30, 2013 By Jill Montgomery
awc@animalwelfarecouncil.org

The media and public use **animal welfare** and **animal rights** interchangeably, but they are not synonymous terms. In fact, the philosophical gulf between these two belief systems and the advocacy efforts currently underway by each group carry enormous implications for the future of the horse industry. In light of legislation pending on the Federal level as well as in various State Houses, it is imperative that the general public, as well as anyone with an interest in horses as work or recreational animals, come to a full understanding

of each philosophy and the methods by which proponents of each carry out their missions.

“Animal Welfare and Animal Rights: A war of words with casualties mounting” is a research-based article by Jill Montgomery on behalf of the Animal Welfare Council; it is suitable for broad publication and covers not only the philosophical differences but the comparative implications of each approach. The consequences of pending legislation will be critical to the future of the horse industry and will likely carry over to affect other livestock producers and users in the recreation, entertainment and agricultural/food industries.

For the full article please visit the www.animalwelfarecouncil.com website. Thank you

Mission Statement: AALAS is an association of professionals that advances responsible laboratory animal care and use to benefit people and animals.