

# Primate Experimentation in the United States: Spotlight on the University of Washington, Seattle

## The National Death Toll

Primate experimentation in the United States is out of control. **In the last ten years the number of primate experiments funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has increased by 76%.** Statistics based on data published by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reveal that **primate experimentation in the U.S. has reached an all time high with over 120,000 of our closest relatives suffering and dying in laboratories during the last two years.**

## The University of Washington, Seattle

The University of Washington (UW), Seattle/Washington Regional primate Research Center (WRPRC) plays a major part in the torture & killing of primates every year. During fiscal year 1999 the WRPRC confined over 1800 primates. 391 of these primates did not survive the year. 220 primates died during experiments and 171 died of other causes -- including disease.

The motivation for the abusive experiments underway at the WRPRC is simple -- money. Experiments performed at the WRPRC brought over \$82,000,000 into the coffers of the University of Washington, Seattle. Many of these experiments are highly duplicative.

Albert Fuchs, Michael Shadlen and Chris Kaneko all perform vision experiments on primates at the UW. These projects are very similar to one another, potentially duplicating experimental procedures. These projects squander over \$500,000 in public and private research funding.

While these projects are potentially duplicative of each other, they are also very similar to research projects at other laboratories. The National Institutes of Health currently funds 70 separate grants that examine vision in macaque monkeys at dozens of different laboratories.

These experiments, both at the UW and at other facilities subject macaque monkeys to horrendous abuses. **Holes are cut into the primate's skulls. Recording cylinders are attached to their skulls, so that electrodes may be fed directly into the brain.**

**The monkeys are then confined to restraint chairs and forced to perform behavioral experiments. Juice or water is often used as a reward in these experiments. To make the experiments more effective the primates are deprived of fluids except when they are performing the experiments.**



The duplication exemplified by these vision experiments is only one area where research funding is wasted. There are currently over 60 separate NIH grants that examine drug addiction in primates. Other areas of experimentation are just as riddled with waste.

## What you can do to help:

1. Read, copy, and distribute this factsheet.

2 Please contact the Northwest Animal Rights Network to get involved in the Seattle area:

(206) 323-7301

[info@narn.org](mailto:info@narn.org)

3. Write to your federal legislators to request a General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation of duplication within National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515**

202-224-3121 [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

**Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510**

202-224-3121 [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

4. Send as large a tax-deductible donation as you can afford to Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! (SAEN) to support this campaign.

**Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!**

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