



April 15, 2009

Hi:

I have some very important information about vivisection in Vancouver, BC. This is very timely in view that **World Week for Animals in Laboratories is planned for April 18th to 26th**. Organizations and individuals throughout the world will conduct events to focus on the plight of animals and the harm to people that result from these scientifically fallacious “animal models”. Every year Lifeforce provides a free downloadable poster. This year’s poster is available at:

<http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/images/posters/WORLDWEEK.pdf>

What’s New

Item #1: BC Fire Fighters Burn & Wound Lab at VGH

In our last newsletter we told you that we sent an email to the BC Professional Fire Fighters (BCPFF) to ask if they still have their **no animal experiments policy**. Lifeforce has found that the Head of their Burn & Wound Healing Research Laboratory at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) is associated with experiments on mice, rats and rabbits. We have not received a response.

In the early 90s the BC Professional Fire Fighters Burn Foundation stated that they will not provide any more funding to Dr. Charles Snelling. Dr. Snelling was putting rats in boiling water to test various combinations of creams which were already being used for human patients. The BCPFF also told the International Association of Fire Fighters Burn Foundation that their contributions “not be used to fund research grants that required the use of animals.”

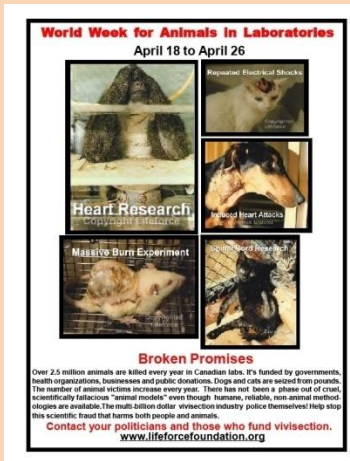
In a 2007 paper published in “Wound Repair and Regeneration” reprints requests were directed to Dr. Ghahary, at the BCPFF’s Burn & Wound Healing Research Laboratory. In addition to non-animal studies, it included “full-thickness wounds were infected with *Staphylococcus aureus* on the dorsal skin surface of New Zealand White rabbit ...” As many as eight 6mm wounds were made on each rabbit. A “specialized wound cover attached to a tether and swivel” was used to deliver the gas treatment for 8 hours per day. Other animal experiments are also being conducted in UBC and U. of Alberta vivisection labs.

Item #2: Canadian Military Experiments on Animals at VGH

The Canadian Forces Trauma Training Centre West is “embedded” in the VGH Trauma Unit. It started in 2001 under Commander Ross Brown. In the military’s “Special Skills Lab” medical procedures are practised using animals when non-animal alternatives are available. Pigs have their throats cut stomachs slashed and are stabbed with needles before being killed. In other related military experiments pigs are bled to induce hemorrhagic shock, surgical trauma and hypothermia.

VGH boasts about their CESEI (Centre of Excellence for Surgical Education and Innovation) as being the high-tech classroom to train medical personnel. They say, “In addition, **a facility like CESEI eliminates the use of animals and human subjects in surgical education**. Overall, trainees receive broader and deeper exposure to medical conditions, ensuring a higher standard of care for patients.”

Archaic medical training involving animals has been rejected by nearly every medical school in North America. When will VGH and the Canadian Forces provide the best humane training methods available and stop the abuse of animals?



Item #3: ICORD Spinal Cord Experiments at VGH

Instead of admitting that animal models have failed and should be stopped, one of the stated purposes of ICORD (International Collaboration of Repair Disorders) is to: "Development of more accurate experimental spine/spinal cord injury paradigm – ICORD will develop novel animal models of SCI....". ICORD's Head is John Steeves, who experimented with Canada Geese captured from Stanley Park in the 80s, that Lifeforce stopped. They continue to use other species. The funders of these animal experiments include the Rick Hansen Foundation. See Lifeforce's Video "Broken Promises": http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/ecotv_play.php?id=19

How Many Animals Are Killed In Canada

According to the latest numbers released by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) in 2006 there were 2,535,989 animals used in research, teaching, testing and production (of animals and biologics for scientific purposes). This is an 8.7% increase since 2005. There are "Categories of Invasiveness". "CI D" is "...moderate to severe distress or discomfort" and "CI E" is "...severe pain near, at, or above the pain tolerance threshold of anaesthetized animals." There were 816,331 in category D and 179,781 in category E. That is approximately 40% of 2.5 million animals who were subjected to severe pain and suffering.

There was a substantial increase of experiments with marine mammals. As stated by CCAC:

In 2006, 2914 of the 3660 marine mammals reported by CCAC participating institutions were Cetaceans; 670 were seals and 76 belonged to other species. 3,593 of the 3660 marine mammals reported in 2006 were used generally in population and behavioural observation studies. 2,969 of the marine mammals 3660 reported in 2006 were used generally in behavioural observations and tissue collection; 689 marine mammals were used in CI C protocols (stress or pain of short duration) that often involved tagging and telemetry; 2 animals were used in CI D protocols (moderate to severe stress or discomfort).

What You Can Do!

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) has failed to adhere to their claimed mandate called the "3Rs" – Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of experiments on animals.

Tell them to stop the burn/wound experiments and the military training/experiments with animals because viable non-animal methods are available. Email Dr. Clement Gauthier, Executive Director – cgauthier@ccac.ca



I hope you will give your moral and financial support to help us continue this important work. Lifeforce has been hit hard in these tough economic times - donations are scarce.

Thank you,

Peter Hamilton

Lifeforce Founding Director
(604)649-5258

lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com
www.lifeforcefoundation.org

ABOUTLIFEFORCE

Lifeforce is a non-profit Vancouver based ecology organization that was formed in 1981 to raise public awareness of the interrelationship between people, animals, and the environment. We promote animal rights and ecological responsibility. In order to develop a non-violent society we must extend our circle of compassion to include all sentient creatures with whom we share this planet. We are based in Canada but our work has no boundaries.

Lifeforce has been registered as a non-profit organization under the Society Act of BC since 1981. Your [memberships, donations and bequests](#) help us continue our important work.

