

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2020

Rise for Animals Releases Rare Glimpse Inside ASU Primate Lab



Photo 1 ([highest available resolution](#))

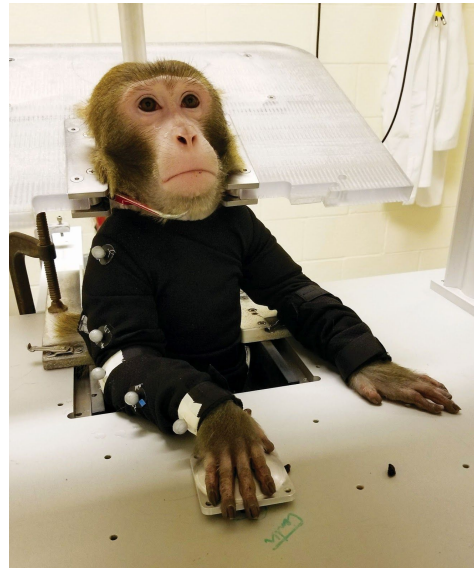


Photo 2 ([highest available resolution](#))

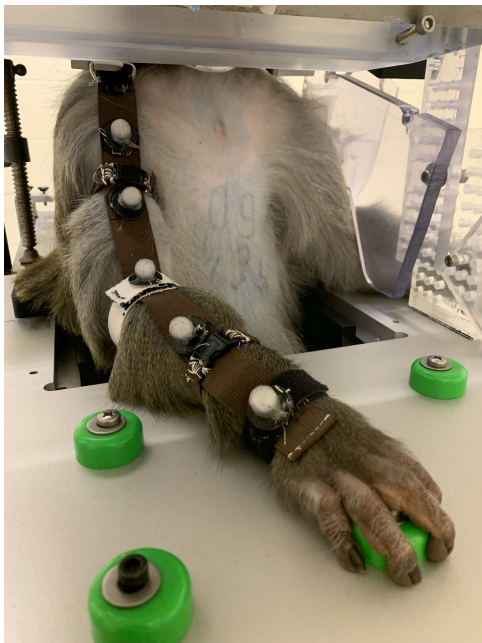


Photo 3 ([highest available resolution](#))



Photo 4 ([highest available resolution](#))

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Rise for Animals Releases Rare Glimpse Inside ASU Primate Lab **National organization teams up with Arizona State University student group to call for the closure of the school's primate lab**

Tempe, AZ—Today, Rise for Animals (Rise) released never-before-seen photographs of a restrained monkey inside Arizona State University's laboratory. The photos show a macaque monkey in various restraint jackets that experimenters confine them in for up to 6 hours, 5–7 days a week as part of a multi-year experiment.

The photographs were obtained from a public records request submitted by Rise, after the organization grew concerned about Animal Welfare Act exemptions the university filed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture that involved water deprivation and multiple surgeries on monkeys.

In one grant alone for the associated experiment, Arizona State University (ASU) received nearly \$1.3 million from the National Science Foundation, an agency of the federal government. Documents obtained by Rise show that several monkeys are used in the experiments, each forced to undergo multiple invasive surgeries. Experimenters implant electrodes and recording devices into their brains and drill holes into their skulls to mount posts that are later used to keep the monkeys' heads completely immobilized during the daily experiments.

“It doesn't take a brain surgeon to understand it's unnecessarily cruel and painful to stuff monkeys into straightjackets, drill screws into their skulls, implant electrodes in their brains, and keep them restrained for hours every day in experiments that last years,” said Amy Meyer, Director of Grassroots Organizing. “It's time for ASU to invest in innovative, evidence-based research methods to benefit all—at the expense of none.”

Rise for Animals is teaming up with ASU student group, Veg Out, in their campaign to close the ASU primate lab and send the remaining monkeys to sanctuary.

“As the university ranked #1 in innovation, we're disheartened that these archaic experiments continue to be supported by the university, despite there being a multitude of non-animal models available to invest in,” says Veg Out President Katherine Poe. “Considering it's students who are paying tuition and taxes to the university, we should have a say in what goes on in ASU labs. Veg Out is dedicated to ending vivisection on these intelligent, emotional animals, and we will continue to speak up until ASU commits to ending primate experimentation forever.”

Veg Out is hosting a virtual campaign event with Rise for Animals on November 23rd at 6pm MST. Details about the club can be found on their [Sun Devil Sync page](#).

About Rise for Animals

Founded in 1895 as New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS), Rise for Animals is a national animal rights organization on a mission to end animal experimentation in our lifetime. Our efforts to expose cruelty in labs, rescue animals, mobilize support, change laws and regulations, and advocate for innovative, humane, and effective research will end an outdated industry and free animals from torture. Join us at riseforanimals.org.

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FACT SHEET

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What is on the monkey in the photos?

This monkey was used in an experiment that involved recording his arm movement. The first photo shows a restraint jacket often used in primate experiments. This particular monkey was “challenging” for the experimenter, and desperately tried to escape from the straightjacket, using his feet to pull on the front hem. The experiment couldn’t be conducted with the monkey distracted by trying to escape the original straightjacket (Photo 2), so experimenters tried shortening the jacket so the monkey’s feet couldn’t reach it (Photo 1). He was still “distracted,” so the experimenters tried another sleeve setup (Photo 3), while also strapping down his opposite hand to prevent him from ripping off the sleeve (Photo 4).¹

What are these experiments trying to achieve?

The photos of this monkey are from restraint device trials the experimenters did to get this “challenging” monkey to be restrained for hours a day, performing the tasks the experimenters demanded without being distracted by his urge to escape. The experimental protocol 18-1630R restrains monkeys like this for up to 6 hours a day, 5–7 days a week, for up to 3 years. In addition to the restraint, the monkeys used in this experiment are subject to multiple surgeries, including implanting electrodes and recording devices into their brains, and drilling holes into their skulls to mount posts that are later used to keep the monkeys’ heads completely immobilized during the experiments. The experimenters claim this is basic research “aimed at understanding how the brain combines sensory information from various sources and uses it to guide our limb movements.”²

Aren’t animals like this monkey protected by law?

This monkey, and the experiment he was part of, demonstrate how little protection animals in labs are given under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The AWA is the only U.S. federal law that provides even minimal protection for animals in laboratories, setting specific, but weak, standards for their housing, feeding, handling, and veterinary care. However, the AWA specifically excludes applying “to the design, outlines, or guidelines of actual research or experimentation.”³ In other words,

¹ AR Knight & PK Phataraphruk, *Optimizing Success in Nonhuman Primate Work with Individualized Problem-Solving Strategies*, School of Bio. & Health Systems Engineering: AZ State Univ.

² *Multimodal State Estimation through Neural Coherence in the Parieto Frontal Network (18-1630R)*, Inst. Animal Care & Use Cmtee, Animal Protocol Review: AZ State Univ. (Feb. 26, 2018).

³ Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. § 2143(b)(A) (1966).

there is no such thing as an illegal experiment on animals in the U.S. This is how the experiment was given exemptions from following the regulations of the AWA. For example, they claimed it was part of the experiment to intentionally deny the monkeys water throughout most of the day to coerce them into following orders for drops of water during the experiment.⁴

How many non-human primates are at ASU?

The most recent documents published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture show that there were 23 non-human primates used in experiments at ASU in 2019. They were all used in painful experiments.⁵

What is the student group's campaign at ASU?

Veg Out has been trying to shed light on the cruel primate experimentation taking place at ASU for almost a year now. Over 5,000 individuals have [expressed support](#) for ending the experiments on primates, but when the club members reached out to President Crow about their concerns, they were told that ASU leadership fully supports these painful experiments. Veg Out is dedicated to ending vivisection on these intelligent, emotional animals, and we will continue to speak up until ASU commits to ending primate experimentation forever.

⁴ *AWA Exception: AZ State Univ.*, U.S. Dep't. of Ag. Animal & Plant Health Insp. Serv. (2019).

⁵ *Inspection Report: AZ State Univ.*, U.S. Dep't. of Ag. Animal & Plant Health Insp. Serv. (2019).