

Introduced to the Senate Floor on November 7, 2019.



ASUCD SENATE RESOLUTION #4

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Introduced by: EPCC, EAC

Do Pass as Amended, 2-0-1 on November 12,
2019. Yes: Salyer, Sheth Abstain: Ghafari

An ASUCD Senate Resolution to recognize non-human animal sentience, including animals at the UC Davis California National Primate Research Center (CNPRC)

WHEREAS, the definition of sentience used by the Sentience Institute is the "capacity to have positive and negative experiences, usually thought of as happiness and suffering";¹

WHEREAS, a group of prominent international neurological scientists issued the Cambridge Declaration of Consciousness in 2012, stating that non-human animals are conscious beings capable of feeling emotional states such as pain, saying:

"The weight of evidence indicates that humans are not unique in possessing the neurological substrates that generate consciousness. Nonhuman animals, including all mammals and birds, and many other creatures, including octopuses, also possess these neurological substrates."²;

WHEREAS, current federal law excludes over 90% of the nearly 10 billion farm animals slaughtered annually in the United States from basic protections like the Humane Slaughter Act³;

¹ <https://www.sentienceinstitute.org/animal-farming-attitudes-survey-2017>

² <http://fcmconference.org/img/CambridgeDeclarationOnConsciousness.pdf>

³ <https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/humane-methods-slaughter-act>

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WHEREAS, data from the United States Department of Agriculture suggests over 99% of domestic farm animals come from factory farms⁴;

WHEREAS, between pastures and cropland used to produce feed, 41% of U.S. land in the contiguous states revolves around livestock⁵;

WHEREAS, the Humane Society states: "The continuous confinement of chickens, pigs, turkeys, cattle, and other animals raised in industrialized agricultural systems jeopardizes the animals' welfare and degrades the environment. Factory farms produce immense quantities of animal waste and byproducts, which threaten water and air quality and contribute to climate change"⁶;

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas emissions from the factory farming are estimated to account for 14.5 percent of the global total of emissions, more than direct emissions from the transport sector;⁷

WHEREAS, recent studies show that it is unlikely that global temperature rises can be kept under two degrees Celsius without a global shift in meat and dairy consumption⁸;

WHEREAS, the Center for Biological Diversity has identified a sixth human-caused mass extinction, with "as many as 30 to 50 percent of all species possibly heading toward extinction by mid-century"⁹;

WHEREAS, the UC Davis CNPRC has had a history of primate deaths due to negligence, and a history of violating the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Welfare Act, receiving 21 citations between 2014-2016¹⁰;

WHEREAS, there are increasing demands for the CNPRC to exhibit greater transparency (adequate information or footage under the Freedom of Information Act¹¹) in its research, so that its standards of care can be better understood by the public;

⁴ <https://www.sentienceinstitute.org/animal-farming-attitudes-survey-2017>

⁵ <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2018-us-land-use/>

⁶

<https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/hsus-report-industrialized-animal-agriculture-environment.pdf>

⁷

https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/field/field_document/20141203LivestockClimateChangeForgottenSectorBaileyFroggattWellesleyFinal.pdf

⁸

https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/field/field_document/20141203LivestockClimateChangeForgottenSectorBaileyFroggattWellesleyFinal.pdf

⁹https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/biodiversity/elements_of_biodiversity/extinction_crisis/

¹⁰ Asimov, Nanette. UC Davis under Investigation for Lab Animal Deaths. SF Gate. Oct, 2016
<https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/UC-Davis-under-investigation-for-lab-animal-deaths-9970036.php>

¹¹ <https://www.peta.org/blog/peta-sues-uc-davis-experiments-on-monkeys/>

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WHEREAS, at the CNPRC, primates are exposed to pesticides, ozone, smoke, drugs, asbestos and other toxic inhalants, including known risks such as tobacco smoke, although human studies have already demonstrated the effects of smoking on pregnancy, which causes birth defects and lung development problems¹²;

WHEREAS, CNPRC is engaging in cruel and inhumane treatment of Rhesus Macaques in their behavioral neuroscience unit; utilizing fluid control to keep macaques in a state of extreme dehydration, motivating them to complete an extreme number of tests per day for a few drops of water as a reward;

the neuroscience tests being done on primates are often harmful to primates; researchers stimulate or silence parts of primates' brains with electricity or drugs. These manipulations include: permanent surgical destruction of part of the brain (also called ablation); temporary silencing of a brain area by cooling or by electrical, magnetic or drug stimulation; or temporary activation by electrical or drug stimulation."¹³

WHEREAS, animal experimentation is costly and often ineffective; the White Coat Waste Project states that US tax-payers pay \$15 billion for animal experimentation annually in the United States

WHEREAS, there exists effective, cheaper, and non-animal testing methods such as in vitro petri dish testing, microdosing human volunteers in doses too small to cause adverse reactions and analyzing their blood, artificial human skin (commercially available from EpiDerm and ThinCer); and can produce more useful results than testing chemicals on animal skin, and computer models, which can predict toxicity of substances without invasive experiments on animals¹⁴;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the ASUCD recognizes non-human animals as sentient beings; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the UCD Primate Research Center shall consider hosting a lab space for testing non-animal methods and shall consider including a clause that all new research projects at the Center hold a higher standard of public dissemination, especially regarding animal condition and welfare reporting.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, elected and appointed members of the ASUCD will consider the impact of their actions on non-human animal interests during their decision making; especially as it pertains to making a wider variety of vegan options available on campus in consideration of environmental impact and animal sentience;

THEREFORE LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, copies of this resolution shall be sent to Chancellor Gary May, IVC Emily Galindo, VC Joanna Regulska, VC Renetta G. Tull, the California National Primate Research Center (CNPRC), the UC Davis Department of Animal Science, and the California Aggie.

¹²

https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Ten_Worst_Laboratories#University_of_California_2C_Davis

¹³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165027010005157>

¹⁴ Kara Rogers, "Scientific Alternatives to Animal Testing: A Progress Report," britannica.com

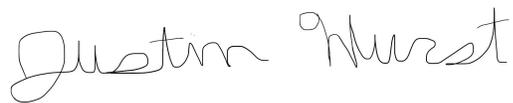
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Finance: No

Appropriation: None

Vote: Majority

DO PASS AS AMENDED, 8-0-4, BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF THE ASUCD SENATE ON NOVEMBER 14, 2019. YES: CHEN, ESTRADA, KAUR, KUMAR, LANDRUM, RODRIGUEZ, SANCHEZ, SCHMEDAL. ABSTAIN: BARAK, CHOI, RUIZ, SPINOGLIO.



Justin Hurst
ASUCD President

11/18/19
Date