

**Sub \_ to 2014 RES-275 (PROPOSED – MATANO)  
URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
TO HALT PLANS TO CONDUCT MATERNAL DEPRIVATION STUDIES ON MONKEYS**

The University of Wisconsin recently announced that it will resume maternal deprivation experiments on monkeys. The experiments involve separating baby monkeys from their mothers at birth, observing the stress this induces on the baby monkeys, and ultimately killing the monkeys.

The Dane County Board of Supervisors has previously questioned the ethics of the University of Wisconsin's experiments on primates. In December 2009, 20 Supervisors signed a letter to the Chancellor expressing their concerns. In 2010, Res. 35, 2010-2012, Establishing An Advisory Panel to Study the Ethics of Invasive Research on Non-Human Primates In Dane County, was introduced.

Although Res. 35 was not adopted by the Board of Supervisors, it initiated a dialogue with the University about its experiments on primates. Notwithstanding an intense lobbying effort by University officials, approximately one third of the Board still voted to adopt the Resolution. In response to the Resolution, the University initiated a series of public lectures and panel presentations on the topic of the University's use of animals in invasive biomedical experiments. The University's presentations were intended to take the place of the community based forum that Resolution 35 would have created for the discussion of the ethics of experimentation on monkeys and other non-human primates.

Recently the University of Wisconsin has resumed its most ethically unjustifiable experiments, the maternal deprivation experiments.

During the debate over Resolution 35, University officials argued that experimentation on animals is necessary to find cures for diseases such as cancer and AIDS. The maternal deprivation experiments have no relevance to finding a cure for cancer or AIDS. The University speculates that the experiments could eventually lead to development of a drug to treat, but not cure, anxiety.

The maternal deprivation experiments shock the conscience. By their very design, they maximize the suffering of the animals subjected to the experiments. These experiments are designed to cause the animals inescapable anxiety, first by depriving them of maternal comfort and then by exposing them to repeated terrifying experiences. The experiments are intended to inflict unremitting psychological distress on infant animals while they provide an immeasurably small likelihood of finding a new beneficial drug or a cure for a disease.

Community standards on certain issues are evolving, and there is increased concern for the well-being of animals. Public norms have evolved on other major issues. Public concerns for animals is growing. The University of Wisconsin has not kept pace with evolving societal norms.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges the University of Wisconsin to terminate its plans to resume conducting maternal deprivation studies of monkeys.

Be it further resolved, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors finds that the experiments are morally and ethically wrong, as they inflict suffering on sentient beings with little, if any, chance of medical gains for humans.

52 Be it finally resolved, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Chancellor of the  
53 University, to Dane County's delegation to the Wisconsin Legislature, to Dane County's  
54 Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives and Wisconsin's two United States  
55 Senators.