



humane research australia

MEDIA RELEASE

23rd April 2013

A shameful betrayal 8 baboons killed in pointless and cruel surgery experiment at an Australian research facility

Humane Research Australia is outraged by the unethical use of baboons in a needless experiment carried out by surgeons at **Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital**.

The researchers cut the shoulder tendons of the baboons and then undertook tendon-to-bone repair of the rotator cuff of each animal to study the progression and rate of healing. The final conclusion was a recommendation that excessive tension on the repair site should be avoided for at least 12 weeks – hardly a new revelation, and one that is already well known and documented by orthopaedic surgeons around the world.

The eight ageing female baboons used for this experiment were sourced from Sydney's National Baboon Breeding Colony - a tax payer funded facility that breeds baboons for the specific purpose of being used in medical and scientific research. The breeding facility had scheduled them to be killed, as they were no longer of use to the facility.

Chief Executive Officer, Helen Marston, said today *"What makes this experiment all the more tragic is the ageing baboons that were used in this research had already suffered years of incarceration and experimentation within the breeding facility. To meet their end in this most distressing and meaningless way shows such a worrying lack of regard and respect for these highly intelligent animals. The researchers involved, and the Animal Ethics Committees that approve such research, appear to be devoid of the ability to see the animals they routinely subject to invasive and painful procedures as anything more than tools of research, rather than the sentient beings they actually are.*

There is a lot of inhumane and unethical research being conducted at Australian research facilities. This experiment is up there with the most senseless, pointless and cruel. The ethics committees that approved this research need to be held accountable." Ms Marston concluded.

The research was approved by the University of New South Wales Ethics Committee and the Central Sydney Area Health Service Animal Welfare Committee.

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