



## 2. Animal Care, Housing & Supply

### 2.1 Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School

Further details on day to day care, housing and supply can be found in section 1.4 on the *Code Of Practice For The Housing And Care Of Animals Used In Scientific Procedures*. For clarity, this section is divided into seven parts:

#### 2.1.1 Cats



A cat room at CXWMS.

Although the CXWMS apparently uses relatively few cats in research, they have a fairly large colony. A. Lansdown reported in 1992 that: "The SPF colony .... has been in existence for approximately 12 years and is derived from animals originally supplied by Hillgrove Family Farm Ltd., Witney, Oxfordshire."

Females are kept in a communal room, with basic furniture such as

shelving and a log as a scratching post, unless mating or pregnant. The floor is hard and smooth and no bedding is provided. Males are kept in a similar room, but have several cage walls to divide them. One cat is isolated due to fighting.

Food is commercial tinned cat food and dry biscuits given daily in stainless steel bowls. Water is given in the same stainless steel bowls as food, and is replaced daily. Litter trays containing sawdust are changed daily. Our investigator comments Dairy 23.4.94: "The cats are desperate for attention and affection, which makes this job easier said than done."

#### 2.1.2 Dogs

The lab regularly experiments on beagle and mongrel dogs. None are bred on site, but are purchased from dealers, beagles from ICI in Cheshire and the mongrels (labrador crosses) from an unknown supplier in Cambridge. On 5.1.94, our investigator wrote in his diary, "I overheard C saying that Dr Lansdown was off to Cambridge to get some dogs - the litter mates of the ones we already have. They were half labrador, half sheepdog or collie and were being picked up tomorrow."

On 16.8.94 our investigator described some recently arrived dogs: “They were in the oblong metal boxes the pigs have, but I don’t think they travelled in them. They seemed very scared and agitated, jumping around their cages and barking.”

At CXWMS, the dogs are kept in pens in a plastic-coated floored room, and although sometimes housed singly, generally have contact with their own



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species. They have moulded plastic beds but no bedding. Although the COP recommends that bedding be provided unless inappropriate, in six investigations we have never seen laboratory dogs provided with bedding. At Toxicol Laboratories<sup>1</sup> and SmithKline Beecham<sup>2</sup> dogs were kept in hard floored pens with a scattering of sawdust on the floor to aid cleaning. The same was true of the conditions filmed at licensed supplier Interfauna<sup>3</sup>. At CXWMS,

Crossbreed labradors and a beagle at CXWMS. The dog above has had a pacemaker implanted to induce heart failure.



there is an additional, empty, larger room available which is often used to exercise the dogs or to enable cleaning of their normal area.

Dogs are fed a commercial brand of tinned dog food and biscuits. Additional fibre is sometimes added to relieve constipation. Water is supplied in a trough which is filled manually.

During the course of the investigation, the dogs were used almost exclusively for heart research (see section 3 Scientific Critique, para 3.1.1). They are implanted with pacemakers and returned to their pens. We have



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video (10.12.94) of a subdued mongrel which has recently had such an implant and has a fresh surgical wound. This animal is sharing the pen with a very lively and boisterous beagle. Whilst pen sharing is to be preferred over isolating animals, the post-operative supervision in this instance is questionable. Diary 11.12.94: "Later the dog was bandaged over the lump and was looking very sorry for himself as usual. His temperature was 40.1oC. He's almost a year old, born in January. Bert, the beagle, is a bit older, born September 1993." Diary 5.2.95: "When I finished, I went upstairs. The four new beagles were there. Two are fitted with pacemakers in the neck. Of these two, one was very withdrawn and nervous, the other was extremely outgoing, even for a beagle, he took no time in taking to me, was very affectionate and excitable. Later he became quite distraught when locked in his enclosure and was gnawing desperately at the bars." At the end of the experiments, the dogs are killed by overdose of anaesthetic.

### 2.1.3 Guinea-pigs

As there was no breeding observed, it is assumed that the guinea-pigs at CXWMS were obtained from a commercial breeder. They are kept in a free standing rack of cages. These have a grid floor for excreta to fall through, this is of a particularly large gauge compared to the animals' feet. They are given straw for bedding, but inevitably, this is eaten and falls through the grid floor, leaving the animals without comfort for most of the time, as our photographs and video show. Rabbit hoppers are put in the cages to provide some basic furniture. As other establishments successfully maintain floor housed colonies of guinea-pigs, such an impoverished and harsh environment shows what little consideration is given to housing. When there is improvement (no matter how minor) in the way laboratory animals are held at one establishment, one would expect it to be the task of the Home Office Inspectorate to ensure that such practices be adopted as widely as possible.

Guinea-pigs are fed a pelleted diet but no fresh vegetables - despite there being efforts to do so with the rabbits. Water is from a bottle attached to the cage.

The only killing method observed by our investigator was cervical dislocation. The guinea pig is held by the head with the index and middle fingers cupped around the back of the head, either side of the neck. The arm is jerked downwards, with the inside of the elbow facing away from the body; as the arm straightens it is jerked upwards again, in a flicking action, breaking the guinea pig's neck. This method is for animals under 1kg of bodyweight.

### 2.1.4 Pigs

The laboratory uses pigs on a regular basis. On 22.4.94 there were five and on 26.7.94 there were six. They are supplied by Old Hill Farm, Old Hill Lane, Cowley, Middlesex. Our investigator noted in his diary 28.3.94: "Late in the morning, pigs arrived, there were three of them, I saw one quite well and also one other. The one I saw clearly was in a cage not much bigger than the pig. The arched wall and floor were solid, the two ends were bars. It had a bleeding nose where it had pushed against the bars to escape. Even through the airlock we could smell them - they smelled filthy. While we watched, this pig continued to try to lift its bloodied nose to try and raise the bars in front of its face - it was obviously very frustrated and under stress. The one behind was in a similar cage." On 6.9.94, "

Some pigs arrived, three or four of them. One got out of the cage and was loose in the van and had to be sedated before being removed.”

They are kept in a room almost identical to the dogs’ room, with a hard, plastic-coated floor in individual pens, with contact with pig in next cage through the bars. They have no bedding material and zero environmental enrichment or stimulation. Water is in a trough, filled manually.



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### 2.1.5 Rabbits

Rabbits are all supplied by Charles River, delivered by van in individual cardboard boxes, with moist food, and paper windows for ventilation - an arrival was observed on 17.1.95. None are bred on site.

On arrival, they are given a basic health check of eyes, nose, ears, and teeth, although this is usually as brief as possible as the animals are very nervous and therefore uncooperative. They are then allocated a cage in the battery, given a full hopper of food pellets and the automatic watering system is checked.

Rabbits are kept one to a cage in a battery stack - 63 rabbits were recorded in the unit on 23.3.95. Each has a metal box, with solid sides, back and ceiling. The front is a double metal bar door, with a food hopper attached. The floor is made of two removable metal grids, enabling faeces, urine, waste food, etc. to fall through. We have photographs which show how the rabbits dig up these grids in frustration. The rabbits have no social contact, no bedding, and no environmental stimulation.

The rabbits are fed pelleted diet almost exclusively. They are given R14 from SDS Lab Diets. They have been given RGP, which is supposed to be suitable for rabbits and guinea pigs, but can refuse to eat it, and dramatic weight loss has been observed. Those that refuse to eat are given ‘mash’, which is the pellets soaked in a

bowl of water. Some rabbits immediately turn the bowl over, so freshly prepared pellets will fall through the floor grids. Occasionally vegetables are purchased if a technician thinks of it, but this is constrained by both budgets and the willingness of the technician to undertake additional work.

On Thursday 23.3.95, our investigator noted: "There are 63 rabbits. Lots are not eating, there were about twelve hoppers which were as full as when they were last filled - last Friday. They aren't stimulated by mash, and some are not interested in the vegetable I offered them. As a result, many have been losing weight dramatically. I noted down some weight losses since last weighing on the 14th: Betty 4160g down to 3960g (200g, 4.8% loss); Tammy 5240g down to 4850g (390g, 7.4% loss); June 5780g to 5370g (410g, 7.1% loss); Tanya 5240 to 4820g (420g, 8% loss); Sheryl 4350g to 3970 (380g, 8.7%); Charmer 4360g to 3880g (480g, 11%); Snow White 4235g to 3880g (355g, 8.4%)."



Water is piped by an automatic system around the backs of the cages, entering the cage via a small nipple which releases water when pressed. This system is checked daily, including at weekends, by pressing the nipples in the end cages on each row. If the end ones are dispensing, it is assumed that the ones between are also dispensing. On occasion certain rabbits will be given a bowl of water. If a rabbit's intake of water is to be measured they will be given a rat water

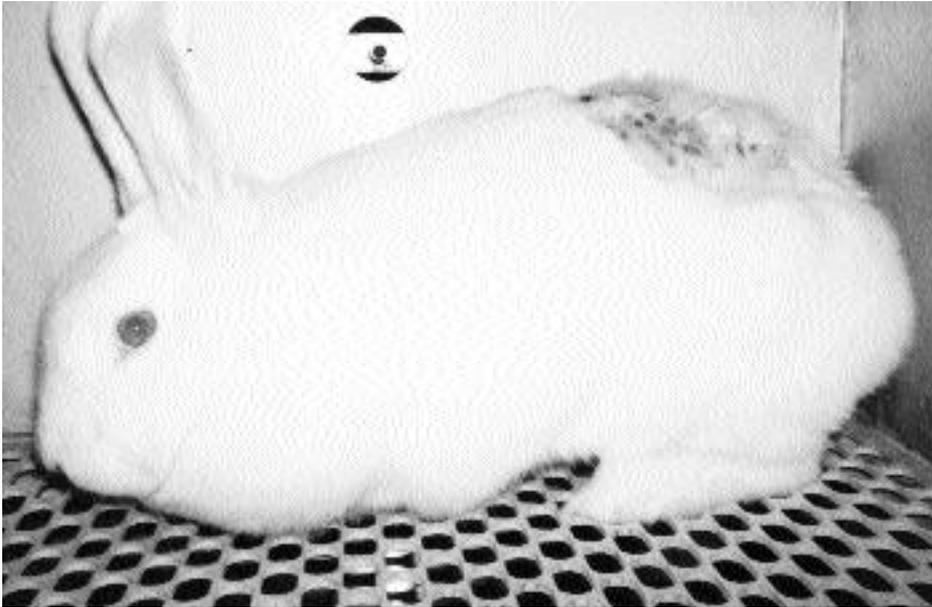
bottle. Our investigator noted in his diary 26.3.95, that the sub-tank supplying the watering system was "green with algae" (see COP 3.35).

Rabbits are replaced in the cages after procedures. Many have wounds on their backs where they are used for antibody production. Euthanasia is reportedly by injection.

In the following tape transcripts we are given a vivid description of an animals' wounds, given by an another animal technician to our investigator. We also learn that a rabbit had fallen out of one of the cages on the top row, because the door had been left open. This was recorded on 13.1.95; earlier in the week (9.1.95), our investigator noted: "G said that one of the vivisectors left a door on the top row of the rabbit battery wide open today. This was today, and not the weekend. The rabbit ventured out and fell the five and a half feet to the floor. It survived, but was injured." On Monday 27.3.95, our investigator noted in his diary that a door in the middle row had been left open the previous weekend.

In the second transcript, recorded 31.3.95, the technician refers to an antibody pro-

duction procedure involving Freund's adjuvant, which leaves the rabbit with sore wounds on his back. The experimenter involved is using burning cotton wool to stop bleeding from ear veins when taking blood samples.



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Rabbit at CXWMS being used for antibody production.

**Taped conversation: Friday 13th January 1995  
G(Technician) and NAVS.**

NAVS: G?

G: Yes

NAVS: Oh, Hello rabbit. That's the one I sprayed with that stuff last weekend.

G: Yes

NAVS: He's well behaved. That's a bit of a scab on that.

G: Yes, I've got to remove it, got to relieve the pressure on it.

NAVS: It'll come off naturally, won't it?

G: But there's too much pressure...it'll become really infected.

NAVS: Is that painful, d'you reckon, for the rabbit ?

G: Yeah, well it's like having something about that size on you.

NAVS: Something the size of my fist? I suppose so, on my size. But what's actually in it, is it just like a scab...

G: It's an ulceration

SID: Ah, an ulceration, so what was injected in ?

G: Antibodies. They've obviously been very very careless about the infection.\*

NAVS: So it's the experimenters fault then

G: Yes, yes, yes, basically bad technique.

NAVS: So that's Ph, he's the one who did it wrong is he ?

G: Yes

NAVS: He's not the one who...was it Monday you said one the cages was left open ?

G: That was one up here.

NAVS: On the top level?

G: Yes, that was Pa.

NAVS: Oh yes, Pa, I've seen the name. And they just left the door open.

G: The rabbit took a dive.

NAVS: (mishearing) The rabbit died!?

G: He took a dive.

NAVS: Was it alright ?

G: (Taking another rabbit out of a cage, thus changing the subject) Look at that.

NAVS: So has this one had a similar sort of thing, [as the first rabbit] injection of antibodies?

G: Yes, antibodies...these rabbits obviously live a hell of a long time. (To rabbit) you're not happy with that are you ?

NAVS: What's all that red stuff, is that just blood ?

G: Blood and pus, yes.....sickening, isn't it? If that was us we'd be in hospital by now. Do you want to hold her eyes? [to protect them from the antiseptic spray]I'll hold the back legs so she doesn't jump.

NAVS: She's a brave rabbit

G: If that was me I'd be screaming by now. Lets have a look at the other side The other side's done\*\* as well.

NAVS: Is this one done badly, or is this how it should be ?

G: This one's been done quite badly actually.

NAVS: Are they all done badly then ?!

G: These two are done badly.

NAVS: What's that, the scab?

G: Blood and pus.

NAVS: That's quite a hole in there, it looks like someone jabbed a pencil in there.

G: Yes.

NAVS: (To rabbit) be a brave rabbit.

G: Now if that was you or me I think we'd have fainted by now.

NAVS: We probably would.....

G: If you put some of that on a cut yourself...phew, I put some of that on a cut..! I can tell you!

NAVS: What's it called? Terramycin.

G: Feel that, feel all the way round.

NAVS: God, the size of that. The size of your fist on scale to a human.

G: Yes, yes

NAVS: So what happened to that rabbit that jumped out then ?

G: They got rid of it

NAVS: Was it badly injured then ?

G: The back legs must have been pretty bloody sore, you know; after it jumped out of the cage they got rid of it pretty quickly.

NAVS: Rather than use up a healthy rabbit.

G: Yes

NAVS: Must be five feet, from there, easily.

G: Yes.....[discussion establishing height from the ground]

NAVS: A bit incompetent if you ask me, it's the first thing you remember!

G: Yes.

END.

\*Antibody injection - meaning injection to make rabbit produce antibodies.

\*\*Done - meaning injected also.

**Taped conversation: Fri 31st March 1995.**

**Room G04, G(Technician) and NAVS.**

NAVS: Pt's rabbits I always find really jumpy. he must treat them a bit roughly, I think.

G: When he first goes in there he wolf whistles at them [G whistles], then he grabs them, hauls them out of the cage, not careful about the way he treats them. I'm sure he puts Freund's in them.

NAVS: What's that?

G: \*Freund's, it's a carrying fluid for substances.

NAVS: I think a lot of the rabbits - if I told you to go and get one and don't tell me where it's from, I could tell to an extent which researcher it's from, cos the ones that are handled badly react, you can tell, but the ones handled well are a bit more docile.

G: Yes

NAVS: I'm sure it was you who said Patel had a really funny way of stopping the blood flowing.

G: Burning cotton wool. A bud of cotton wool, straight on the earhole.

NAVS: Is that legal ?

G: Yes it's [inaudible]...

NAVS: So he takes the piece of cotton wool, sets fire to it.

G: Sets fire with a match, so it's alight, blows it out, the f\*\*\*\*\* thing's dangerous, you know the embers.

NAVS: Glowing red

G: I was really shocked when I first saw that, I really thought f\*\*\*\*\* hell, you know, I'd never seen anything like it.

[Conversation changes]

END.

\*Freund's adjuvant: inflammatory product which increases local production of antibodies; other substances can be carried in the solution, e.g. since 1992 a team here has been raising antibodies in rabbits against rat kidney by repeatedly injecting kidney antigen, together with Freund's adjuvant.

Rack of mouse cages at CXWMS.

## 2.1.6 Rodents

### Mice

There is an extensive breeding programme at CXWMS which supplies the majority of the mice they use, however others are bought from animal supplier Harlan Olac, Bicester, Oxfordshire. They are kept in opaque plastic boxes with a removable, wire grid top through which there is access to a





Mice with litter at CXWMS.

pelleted food hopper and a water bottle. A common problem is for the nozzle of the water bottle to become blocked with sawdust.

Diary 1.2.94: "While doing cage cleaning I found a cage with three Blotchy mice, all females, 30 days old. One was dead, the other two were ill, lethargic and shivering violently.

K said it was probably due to a blocked nozzle on the drinking bottle." The following day our investigator discovered another case 2.2.94, "While doing cages I found five, all dead, with a blocked bottle. It's the sawdust that does it." On 14.2.94, "While doing clean cages I found more dead victims of blocked nozzles on water bottles." In another instance on 22.3.94 five mice were found dead with a block water nozzle. See section 1.4, water.

Another problem, which we observed previously in rodent cages at St Mary's Medical School are 'run-outs'. This is where all of the water in the bottle has run out into the cage. It is caused by the ball in the drinking nozzle being jammed in the open position, or by a leaking bottle cap, or sometimes the bottle cap comes off altogether (refer COP 3.35 for full report).

The cages are meant to hold five animals, but may contain more. Diary 1.3.94: "I checked and split up some mouse cages. There was one with nine in, two with seven and one with six. They should only have five in."

These cages are then stacked on racks up to six feet high with seven shelves of cages. This is standard laboratory housing; it is impossible for anyone to see at a glance if anything is amiss. Indeed the scale of rodent use in laboratories make day to day care and attention impossible, in one mouse room, there can be over 1,000 animals and could be many more. It is evident that ailments are only spotted if they become extremely visible or the animal is found dead. Treatment is rare amongst rodents because they are a cheap, disposable laboratory commodity.

Diary 21.2.94: "I didn't find many dead today. There was one in a cage of two (non-breeders), which looked as though it had been there for ages. It was hard, but not with rigor mortis - it was hard because it had dried out."

Diary 3.10.94: "While cleaning out today, I found an M9 breeder severely emaciated. The bones felt very clear through the skin. She was 91 days old. Eventually she was gassed because she seemed beyond hope. Her problem was actually one of grossly overgrown teeth preventing her from eating."

Diary 18.1.94: "While I was clean caging I found a couple of dead ones. As the cages are changed weekly, and not routinely checked otherwise, it is theoretically

possible, (and is bound to happen) that a mouse or mice will share a cage with a corpse for six days.”

Diary 16.3.94: “I took some stills of a T/O mouse due to be culled. He had severe injuries to his tail and body around the hind legs. A patch by the upper part of one of his rear legs was bleeding and stripped of fur, and his tail was a mass of scabs and dried blood. The digits on the front paws were indistinguishable, all I could see were blood clots.”

Diary 12.9.94: “While I was cleaning the T/Os I found a box of three males and was really shocked. They had been fighting, and one had been bitten and scratched into an appalling state. His tail was cut and scabbed, which unfortunately is quite common among male mice. His hind quarters were also injured and were losing hair and were scabbed. Even the top of the head had been attacked and was scabby.”

This latter point is further enforced by the way in which vast numbers of unwanted rodents are routinely killed (see report on overbreeding). Weaned at 20 days old, unwanted mice are gassed on an almost daily basis. Sometimes the experimenters may just change their mind.

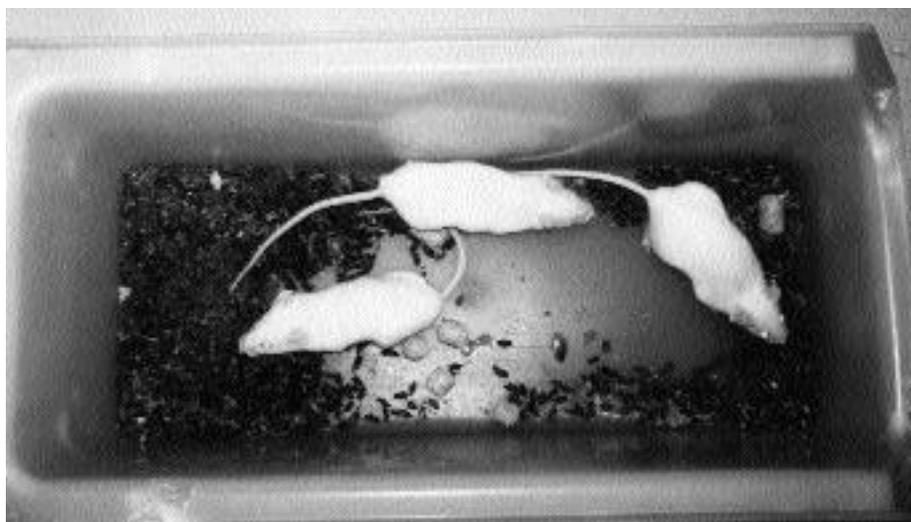
Diary 16.9.94: “Over the last couple of months we have been breeding up large numbers of M9 mice in

order to meet an expected large order for P..t. This morning I was told that due to the vivisectionists moving to Hammersmith, the experiment was to be abandoned and they no longer want the mice.”

On 3.4.95, our investigator discovered a mouse that had been born in the laboratory had been there two and a half years - she had been in this wretched place even longer than him. Diary 7.4.95 indicates the experimenter who had been responsible for her had left in 1993.

In addition to breeding its own rodents, the laboratory is a regular supplier of rodents to laboratories in the UK and abroad. Those obtaining animals include: St Mary's Hospital, London (A letter dated 13.6.94 confirms that the laboratory supplied St Mary's with 20 mice for a breeding experiment); The Babraham Institute, Cambridge, (An order for mice dated 16.3.94, from Babraham); and Hammersmith Hospital (5.5.95). There were regular orders of animals sent for research in Italy. On 18.11.94, our investigator learned that the mice had been transported to Italy by British Airways, “Lansdown asked B.A. to open the box and give them some

Three mice at CXWMS in a filthy cage.



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Notice on the wall at CXWMS. Ear punching is a common way of identifying lab rodents and is practiced at CXWMS.

apple. As the box was opened, the MDX mice got mixed up with the C57Bl/10s. As they're both black strains, that was the end of that. The whole exercise of a big timed mating will have to be done again." Other orders went to Russia and it is believed the USA.

NAVS are particularly concerned that breeding facilities in the UK regularly supply laboratories in other countries with little or no legal protection for laboratory animals.

## Rats

Some rats are purchased from suppliers (like Harlan Olac, Bicester, Oxfordshire) but many are bred on site. The young remain with the parents for 21 days then are weaned. They are mixed with other weaners of the same age and sex and cages are filled until the population reaches seven. Most females are gassed at weaning due to low experimental demand for them (see section 1.3 Legislative Compliance, on gassing).

They are caged in standard rat cages - plastic boxes with a mesh top on which a water bottle and feeder for pelleted food rests, much like the mouse boxes.

DiDi, LeDi and Di+ rats have a 'diabetic' condition and as a result drink large amounts of water and urinate heavily. The stock animals for these strains are kept in wire mesh bottomed cages with sawdust filled trays underneath or solid bottomed cages with extra sawdust. The wire mesh in the cages is extremely coarse when compared to the size of the animals' feet, as our photographs show, and must be uncomfortable. Breeders are kept in normal, solid bottomed cages with three times as much sawdust.

Di rats being kept on wire grid floors at CXWMS



The cages are opaque plastic and are stacked on rack six rows high. Sometimes further cages are stacked on top of the battery. This means that those responsible for the welfare of the animals cannot see them without removing each cage and looking inside, and even more awkward task with the top cages. This makes individual attention and care for the animals impossible.

The close confinement of the caging and lack of environmental enrichment manifest itself in fights and injuries (we give examples in section 1.4, COP, para 3.60).

Escapes from the cages are not uncommon. Diary 20.6.94: "R found a young rat in his cockroach trap. It looked like one that had just been weaned by the size, and

was stuck in the trap by the belly. He found it alive, severely dehydrated, and gassed it.”  
 Diary 4.3.94: “In one of K’s rooms we found an escaped rat wandering around on top of the cages.”

Rats may be identified by ear punching, a standard laboratory practice by which the ears of rodents are mutilated to differentiate them from their cage mates.

Diary 21.1.94: “R showed me ear marking. Ears can be marked in any of three parts around the edge, or by punching through the middle. Each point means a number - it works on a binary system so 7 or 70 needs three tears in the ear. Roy disliked doing it. It was done with a basic one piece tool like a pair of tweezers with a spike on the face. This spike is pushed into the edge of the ear and ripped out, leaving a nick... until a piece was torn out, upon which they squealed sharply and wriggled.”

“Generally the rats are fed a pelleted diet. On the middle floor are C...s’ rats, which have been inoculated with cancer. They are fed a high fat diet. Some rats under study in G01 may be given fat balls, which are pushed into the bars of the hopper where the rat can pick at them.”

For rats of weaning age and above in the breeding area, CO<sub>2</sub> gas inhalation is used for killing (see 1.3 Legislative Compliance). For neonatal animals, death often comes by being thrown hard onto the floor. Occasionally beheading with scissors has been used, although this was observed only once. On the middle floor gassing is mainly employed, but for small numbers concussion by striking the back of the head followed by cervical dislocation is used. This involves swinging the rat by the tail in a circle, hitting the back of the head on the edge of a sink. Immediately, the rat is put in the sink, and an object is pressed into the neck as the tail is pulled, snapping the spinal column.

The rats are used in a variety of experiments. Diary 1.4.95: “I’s rats were suffering from the onset of MS. They were immobile, the hind legs in two not working, possibly not the fore legs as well. While two moved about and avoided me, the other three lay huddled in the corner, eerily like the gassed rats I’ve seen in the cull chamber.”

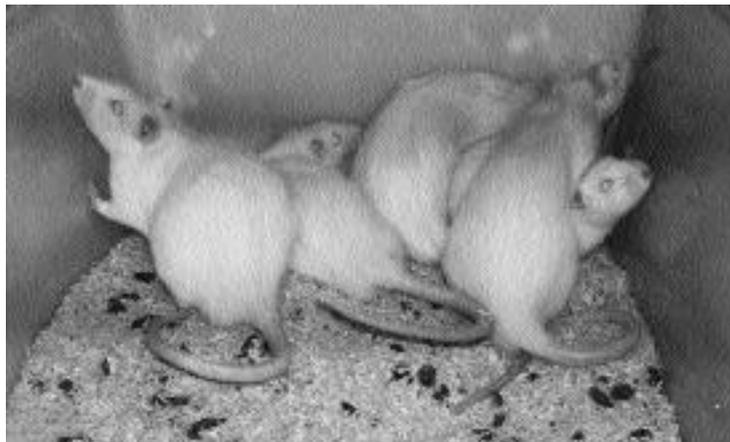
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Above:  
 Long Evans  
 rats  
 soaking  
 bedding  
 because  
 the bottle  
 has leaked  
 into the  
 cage.

Below:  
 CFY rats.

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Isolators at CXWMS, where rodents are bred in a disease free environment. Checking the welfare of animals in 'normal' laboratory conditions is almost impossible. In isolators it is made worse with restricted vision and access.



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### Nude Mice: isolators

All nude mice are born in isolators. These are large plastic enclosures around the stacks of cages with large gloves to allow access; creating a controlled environment. Some mice are born accidentally to stock animals kept in two sex cages. If they are nudes it may be feasible to keep them and wean them as usual. Otherwise they are killed.

Nude females are not used as breeders due to poor performance inbreeding and raising young, so a nude (NuNu) male will be mated with one or two hairy (Nu+) females. This means half the offspring will be hairy (Nu+). The only use for hairy mice is future breeding for some females, so all males and most females will be culled if hairy. This means the breeding programme is actually designed to produce a 50% 'wastage' of animals. In most cases killing is by cervical dislocation, although in very young mice the heads can be hit against objects or the floor, and death confirmed by cervical dislocation or crushing the skull.



In addition, the isolators may be used for breeding other animals where germ free or similar status is required. Diary 6.6.94: "Some rederivations have been done from mice in my room. I heard how these are done. The mice are born in isolators by caesarian. The mother has her neck broken and the young are cut out as soon as possible. They have about a minute before they die from lack of air. The whole uterus is taken out, and the individual mice are rubbed to resuscitate them. If they don't resuscitate at once they will die. The suc-

cess rate is very low, and about 80% die.”

Non breeder MF1 nude mice are weaned and removed from the extremely protected environment of the isolator and taken to room G13 which is meant to operate a high SPF (Specific Pathogen Free) environment. Technicians are required to wear gowns, clothes, shoe covers etc. However, the status of the room is repeatedly breached, with experimenters entering from the outside without wearing protective clothing. This in clear breach of COP 3.79 and specific cases and evidence are outlined in section 1.4.

Other mice, such as Rag Neg, *scid*, MDX nudes will be weaned within the isolator, so will be given a box separate from their parents’ box. Some mice may spend their entire lives from birth through to death inside the isolator.

Like other mice in the laboratory, the isolator mice are kept in standard mouse cages - opaque boxes with wire grid lids, there is no chance opportunity for environmental enrichment. In terms of their welfare and day to day care, we have shown that nature and scale of standard laboratory housing makes this impossible for ordinary rats and mice. For these animals there is the added complication of the isolator.

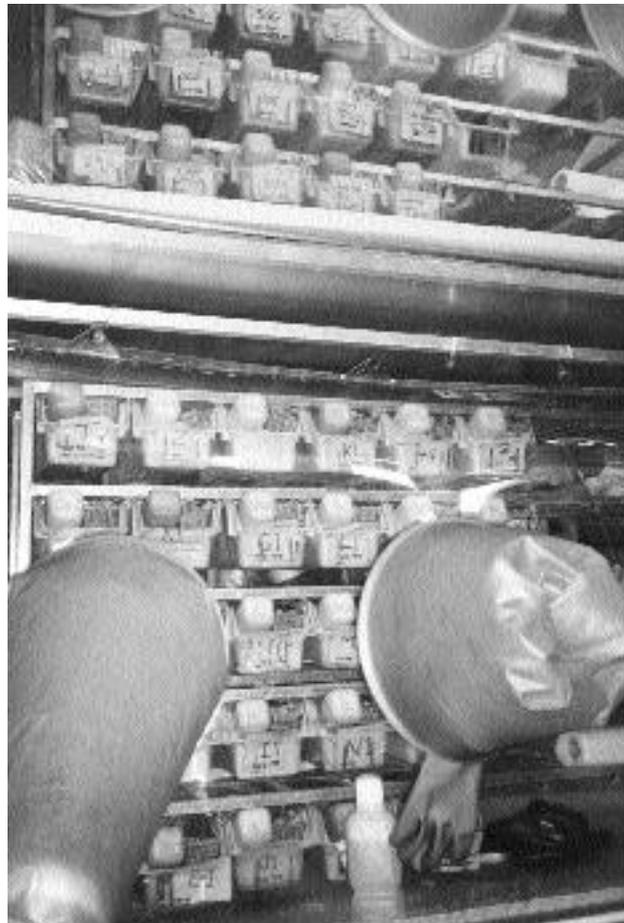
Diary 6.3.95: “Handling of animals in isolators is clumsy and it isn’t possible to be careful. The gloves are large, thick and fairly rigid, so my fingers didn’t go to the ends and there’s no sensation of touch.”

Diary 18.4.95: “At about 10.45am, I went up to the middle floor and cleaned out some isolators. I found an Nu+mdx nude female with a massive growth on her hind leg. the skin had stretched an incredible amount. The leg was sticking out to the side, and even if it was still alive [the mouse was alive], it was unable to move due to the size of the growth.”

Diary 11.4.95: “I spent all day on the isolators. In isolator 7 (C57B1/10) there was an escaped female, about 20 days. She was very fast, and catching her seemed impossible. In the end she was left there, C said we might as well. I said there was no water available for her. C said it would save us the problem of culling her.”

If there isn’t much incentive in laboratories to deal with overcrowding and barren conditions for normal rodents, there is clearly even less when there is the additional work created by an isolator where even adding an extra cage is laborious....

Diary 13.3.95: “I noticed the level of overcrowding in some of the cages. When



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weaned, the mice go into one box per litter, not divided by sex, or up to a maximum of five per box. One box had 10 occupants and several had seven. At college, we learnt that mice of this size should be at a maximum of three per cage. There isn't room in the isolators for more cages - although the cage of ten was divided by sex after I had expressed concern."

All food is irradiated and placed sealed into the isolators and water has to be sterile. Accidentally born animals are usually killed at an early age, either by slamming their heads against an object or the floor, or cervical dislocation. For culling exbreeders, cervical dislocation is usual. For both the above, bodies are put in with the rubbish (dirty bedding etc.) and disposed of with that. If an experiment is at an end and the isolator is to be emptied, the mice may be taken to the middle-floor gas chamber in the post mortem room and gassed (see section 1.4).



### 2.1.7 Sheep

One of the most wretched living environments filmed at CXWMS is a sheep living alone in a small pen. The floor is made from a plasticised grid to allow excreta to fall through. There is no bedding nor any attempt at environmental enrichment and this instinctive herd animal was kept completely alone with no sight or contact with any other animals.

Sheep are brought from Old Hill Farm, Old Hill Lane, Cowley, Middlesex. They

arrive held in trunk cages which are also used for pigs. At CXWMS, they are fed pellets and sometimes dog biscuits and given a trough of water.

### 2.1.8 Overbreeding

The level of overbreeding and subsequent killing of rodents that are surplus to requirements is indicative of the easy come easy go attitude to animal life in the lab. It is argued by factory farmers that they use intensive practices to meet demand. How true or not this might be is another matter, but it is certainly the case that laboratory rodents (which account for approx. 85% of lab animals) are being reared in basic factory farm conditions in order to produce something like three times the number than are actually required - and the NAVS now has documentary evidence to prove this.

In 1993, we wrote of St Mary's Hospital Medical School: "Presumably because "orders" for animals specify an age weight requirement, staff believed that they needed to constantly breed animals to maintain the stability of the colony. As a result they killed thousands. In just 34 weeks, our investigator saw in the region of 2,500

animals being killed or taken away to be killed simply because they were surplus to requirements. The total killed for this reason must have been much higher.”

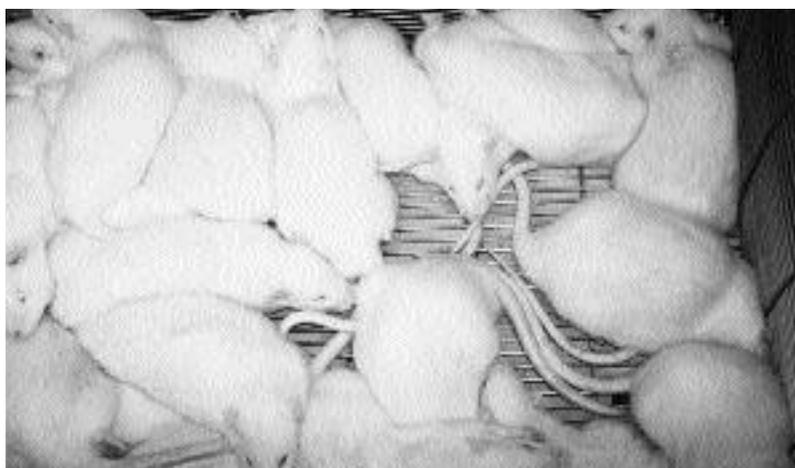
Using their own breeding and culling records, we can reveal that at CXWMS of a total of 52,435 rodents, 15,198 (29%) were actually used in experiments. 3,889 (7%) died before being weaned. A staggering 68% of all of the rodents bred (33,348 animals) were simply killed - usually gassed.

Breaking down the figures we can see that this wastage runs across all of the rodent species and is not biased by unusual strains. Looking at the major rat strains (CFY, WAG, Long Evans, DiDi, Di+ and LeDi), out of a total of 45,325 animals, 29,583 (65% were culled as surplus to requirements. 2,170 (5%) died before being weaned and 13,572 (30%) were experimented on. Data was available for major mouse strains (129, kyky, BDL, T/O, MDX, M9, Blotchy, STR, ORT, C57b1, CBA, Balb/C, B/Lac) revealing that of 7,110 mice, 3,765 (53%) were culled as surplus to requirements, 1,719 (24%) died before being weaned and 1,626 (23%) were used in experiments. Looking at more unusual strains (nude rats, ICR, mastomies and *scid* mice) the same ratio applies. Out of 531 animals weaned, 458 were killed as surplus to requirements.

Whilst life remains so cheap and animals are seen as such an easily disposable commodity within laboratories, any attempts to raise welfare standards are unlikely to succeed. Figures produced by the Home Office reveal that some 2,372,095 rodents were used in experiments in 1994.

Our research indicates that a further 4,744,190 rodents were killed because they were not wanted.

When we reported the matter of overbreeding to the APC and Home Office in our 1994 report on St Mary's Medical School there was no response.



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Gassing at CXWMS: Recently gassed rats, the breeding area gas chamber, bags of gassed animals ready for disposal.



Mice gassed at CXWMS.

### 2.1.9 Other Killing Methods

Schedule 1 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 sets out as a “standard method of killing” for rodents up to 500g bodyweight other than guinea pigs: “Dislocation of the neck.”

Diary 1.9.94: “Just before tea break G found a dead breeder. There was no male with her, but she had a new litter of about three days maximum. Some of them had died, a few more were cold and suffering from lack of feeding, but alive. Gavan decided they couldn’t be fostered and decided to kill them all. He crushed their heads with his fingers, including the dead ones, to make sure.”

Schedule 1 of the Act states that foetal or embryonic mammals should be killed by decapitation.

For rodents up to 1kg bodyweight: “3. Concussion by striking the back of the head. (Followed by exsanguination or dislocation of the neck in rodents.”

Diary 7.7.94: “Then C called G in to kill a rat for post mortem. G swung the rat, which was a white adult female, about 400g, by the tail in a circle until the head hit the edge of

the sink. Then he dropped her unconscious into the sink, on her side and placed what seemed to be a ceramic tile against her neck and pulled the tail. There was a ripping sound as he pulled. C was then given the still twitching body. He pinned the fore legs out, through the paws, to the work surface. The back legs were still active and closed after he had laid them out ready to be pinned out. They continued to kick out. He pinned them out and within a few minutes the body was open from tail to throat, the organs pulled about, the rib cage broken open.”

Diary 17.3.95: “She asked G to kill a rat for her, a CFY adult. G swung the rat by the tail, hitting the head against the edge of the sink, then put the edge of a ceramic tile into the neck and pulled the tail. I watched as Is opened the rat up. She cut open the rib cage and pulled past the lungs and still beating heart.”

## 2.2 Institute of Neurology

There is further detail on this in section on the Code of Practice, which lists where there have been specific breaches to the government's code. For clarity, this section is divided into seven parts, representing different species:

### 2.2.1 Cats

The Institute of Neurology has a population of approximately fifty cats housed loose in several rooms. They have minimal environmental enrichment with just a cardboard box to sleep in - most have no bedding, small rags were given to cats who were due to give birth or those who were post operative. A single cat was purchased from drug company Glaxo, but cats are generally bred on site, with the stock originally from Hillgrove Family Farm, Witney, Oxfordshire. In at least one instance a cat apparently killed and consumed her entire litter of kittens.

Diary 24.7.95: "There was nothing left of the kittens at all, it has been concluded that the mother killed and ate them." This abnormal behaviour can probably be



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Kittens born to be experimented upon at the Institute of Neurology.



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at room at  
the Institute of  
neurology.

Cris Files/ National Anti-Vivisection Society



put down to a stressful and impoverished environment.

### 2.2.2 Guinea-pigs

Guinea-pigs were kept in cages with grid floors for excrement to fall through. Food was provided in a dish and water from a bottle attached to the cage door.

### 2.2.3 Macaque monkeys

We have considerable video and photographic evidence of the primate caging at The Institute. This shows a shocking disregard for the COP, our main criticisms are noted in that section 1.3 Legislative Compliance, and 1.4 COP (with special reference to COP 3.43-3.59).

elow and  
pposite:  
macaques in  
the monkey  
holding room  
at the  
Institute of  
neurology.



There are nearly always primates on the site, with regular deliveries observed during the investigation, and published papers detailing use of a variety of primate species including baboons. During our investigation three rooms were used for holding monkeys, one of which was also a laboratory.

Monkeys appear to be obtained from wherever they are available. Our investigator observed deliveries from two dealers - Shamrock Farms, Small Dole, East Sussex, and Consort, Pulborough, West Sussex. Refer to section 1.3. The laboratory tried to obtain primates from Huntingdon Research Centre, Cambridge, the Institute of Aviation Medicine, Farnborough, Hampshire, and Unite du Psychophysiology

Animales, Universite Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg. (see section on primate supply).

Diary 12.6.95: "Back at the main site, there was a Crab eating macaque delivered at about 11am. He came from Shamrock Farms..... The silver box was brought out on a trolley and wheeled into the lift, and out onto the top floor. It was taken to the cages and lifted onto a trolley next to an open door. The door was opened. there was a pause before there was any sign of life, then he came out and leapt nervously onto a perch. He had inquisitive eyes, was covered in fur and had a long curled tail. He hung from his hands and feet from the ceiling and wall bars. Brave enough to take food from the hands of his captors, on Monday he will be killed."

Diary 31.7.95: "Lemon has ordered two or three primates to come in and go straight out on about 16th August. They'll last a few days at the most."

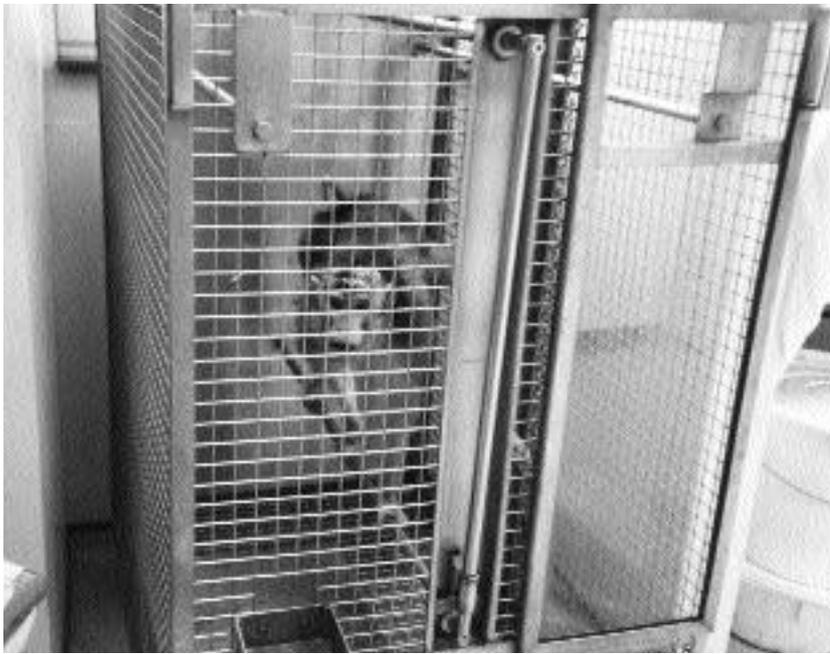
Diary 16.8.95: "I watched the delivery of three primates, they arrived at about 11.30am from Consort, Shoreham. J and I went down to the van in the delivery bay and brought them up. They were in double containers..... In their new room, the cage with the two males was lifted onto a trolley placed level with the opened cage gate. The first male took a few minutes deliberating before venturing into the bigger cage and hiding at the top. The second was quicker.... The female was put into a cage opposite the two males, who were side by side. She was very scared and has spent all day hanging in the top corner when any people are about, baring her teeth. One is due to be operated on on Monday, and will die Thursday. The others, Frogley hasn't received the schedule for."

These monkeys all found themselves in a holding room where there were four cages, two on either side of the room. The cages had metal bar floors and minimal furniture and no foraging materials or other attempts at stimulation. Prior to experiments they are kept in a tiny cage, measuring a pitiful 103cm by 70cms by 93.5cm tall (see section on the COP regarding this violation). On 21.8.95 they tried to put the monkey Niki into the cage to fast him ready for experiments, he refused to go in and had to be blowdarted. Later, "After about 5-6 hours in there, I saw the little guy in the small wheeled cage, which had been walled with blankets and padding. He was just beginning to stir, moving his limbs slightly. A bloody cross on his crown showed where they had been inside."

Much of our evidence concerns a Pig tailed macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*) named Elisa and a Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) named Alice. Both are kept in small wheeled cages in the primate laboratory. The cages have grid floors, no foraging materials and minimal furniture. Elisa has had numerous implants screwed into her brain and skull, which she occasionally carefully picks at, indicating that they



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Elisa (above) and Alice (below) in their tiny cages at the Institute of Neurology.

are sensitive. During the course of our investigation she had already been in the laboratory for over a year. Her cage card noted that she was issued on 31.5.94. Alice was issued on 15.2.95, yet she still has sore skin from injuries apparently inflicted by other monkeys at the supplier. She exhibits extremely disturbed stereotypic behaviour, repeatedly circling her cage, retracing her footsteps and lurching upwards at the same point each time. The video footage of this monkey

makes harrowing viewing. There is something so glaringly wrong with this animal that it is a disgrace that no action has been taken. See section 1.3.

Diary 1.6.95: "Then saw Alice, the monkey, having her cage wash. She was crushed to the front by a plate in the cage..... They were using a hose, which Alice hated and avoided, apparently some like it."

Diary 5.6.95: "Alice was there, who I met last week. She is very red about the legs, it looks like she's been dyed. It's all caused by the injuries from when she was rejected from a breeding colony and forced back in repeatedly by the people. The other was called Elisa. She was about the same size, probably about a metre from head to foot. She had several pieces of metal screwed into her head with bolts and pins. She was very defensive towards me, and bared her teeth and launched herself at me to scare me. Both she and Alice were in wheeled cages, wire grids on all sides. There was a perspex panel, and two bars down the length of the cage for the crush plate. We took Alice and then Elisa upstairs in the lift in their wheeled cages. We took out the sawdust trays under the floors, which had urine, faeces and bits of fruit in. They were scraped, rinsed and replaced with new sawdust. The cages were hosed down with warm water, which both monkeys avoided."



Diary 9.6.95: 'Environmental enrichment is practically nil for these two. In the cage there's a swing on chains, a small platform used mainly for feeding, and two bars the crush plate runs on.'

## 2.2.4 Rodents (gerbils, mice, rats)

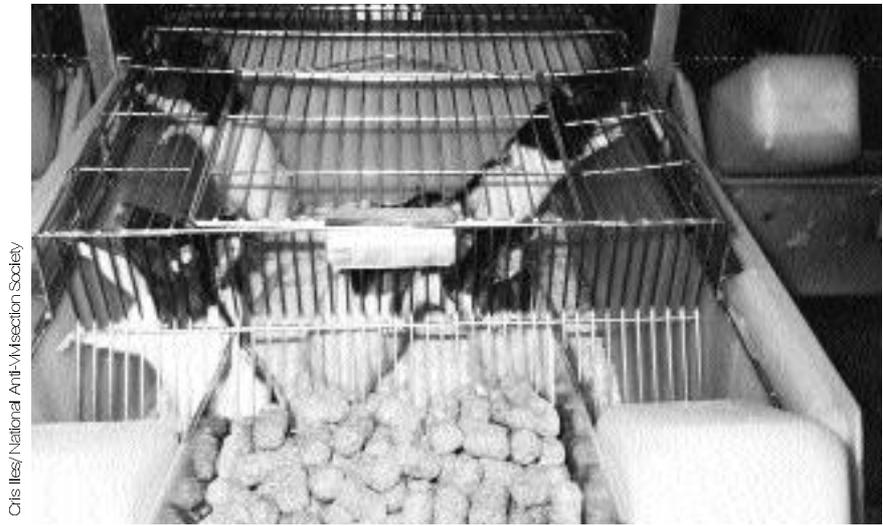
The laboratory had a fairly large rodent population, comprised mainly of rats and mice and up to 100 gerbils. Mouse breeding is done on site although others may be purchased from outside. During the investigation rats were mainly bought from Bantin & Kingman, Humberside, although we note that in 1993, Dr M. Colado was undertaking ecstasy research in hooded rats using animals supplied by Harlan Olac, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

The animals are stored in standard laboratory caging - plastic boxes with grid tops on racks up to approximately six feet high. The broad criticisms levelled at CXWMS are relevant here. The animals' living area is small and barren. There is no attempt at environmental enrichment for the rats or mice, although the gerbils are given a plastic tube in their cage. Diary 12.6.95: "The gerbils are very lively, kept usually eight to a box, with some shredded paper, which gets torn and trampled very quickly, and a piece of plastic tube or a food hopper." The boxes, for all rodents, are generally opaque, although a few perspex ones are available, so again the number of animals and nature of the housing means problems cannot be seen at a glance and day to day care and contact from the technician is minimal.

Diary 22.7.95: "The rat room was very dusty, I was sneezing all of the time I was in there. The filters should be changed fortnightly but haven't been since 12th June."

Diary 27.7.95: "When I checked first thing, I noticed one cage [rat cage] had both water bottles turned the wrong way, so the nozzles were not available. I turned one back, so the rat (there was only one in the cage) could get some. Later, I saw vivisector M G and he concluded that he must have left it like that by mistake last night."

Rats are used in experiments in which dialysis probes are inserted into their heads, however, as we have previously noted at other laboratories, the technicians, who have day to day contact cleaning or feeding animals, are not



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Above Rats caged at the Institute of Neurology and the Institute of Neurology gas chamber.

Below: Adult rat with a dialysis probe permanently fixed into its head.



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informed of the nature of procedures so cannot tell if anything is seriously amiss. Diary 10.7.95: “They had plastic pegs coming from the tops of their heads, with a cannulae injection according to the labels. Some had pieces of metal showing, some didn’t, they all had stitches behind the peg. Later J said she’d looked at them and wasn’t happy with the technique, as some had metal components showing and some didn’t. She wondered which was correct.”

Diary 11.8.95: “There’s some post op rats I should keep an eye on. They have been tearing the connectors out of their heads. They’ve been given higher topped cages, as J thinks they’ve been catching them in the bars. She’s asked for perspex cages, but hasn’t had any feedback on that. The height of the bars is probably irrelevant, as it’s probably the tighter bars on the feeder where they catch the connector.”

Refs:

1. Labs Unlocked, NAVS, 1994.
2. Vivisection In Britain, NAVS, 1991.
3. Operation Release, The Campaigner, Jan-Mar 1995.