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Debate: University claim's AAALAC's approval

Continued from Page 1

Ethical Treatment of Animals, a nonprofit student organization on campus dedicated to educating the University community about problems concerning the treatment of animals.

Rowe said animal research should not be tolerated in any form.

"[Animal Research] is totally, ethically wrong," Rowe said. "The idea of animal experiments is based on the false notion of the superiority of human beings ... even if zebra fish and mice don't seem to have much intelligence, they are still creatures capable of suffering."

Zebra fish make up 98 percent of the University's research animals, although amphibians, rodents and monkeys are also important, said Monte Matthews, director of the office of veterinary services and animal care.

SETA has organized a 72-hour vigil beginning April 27 outside Oregon Hall during World Week for Animals in the Lab, said current SETA director, Kaci Elder.

In addition, SETA plans to take a "freedom ride" to protest at different animal research laboratories along the route to an animal rights march in Washington, D.C., this June.

All animal research at the University takes place through the Institutes of Neuroscience and Molecular Biology, which is comprised of 800 faculty members and 3,200 graduate students from the University's biology, chemistry, psychology, physics and exercise movement departments, Upham said.

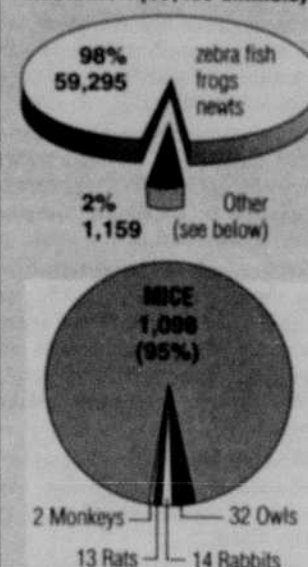
Biology undergraduates are required to take courses that include experimentation on lab animals. Alternative lab experiments are offered for students who object to animal testing, Upham said.

The Office of Veterinary Services and Animal Care's main concern is for humane treatment and adequate living conditions, Matthews said. The University is careful to comply with the federal regulation policies of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Public

ANIMAL RESEARCH

Animals used in research at the University of Oregon during Feb. 1996 consists of zebra fish, frogs, newts, mice, rats, owls, rabbits and monkeys.

TOTAL UNIVERSITY ANIMAL RESEARCH (60,455 animals)



SOURCE: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

DENNIS BOLT/Emerald

Health Service on humane care and use of laboratory animals, he said.

The University even decided to go beyond the federal regulations, and in May 1994 became accredited by the independent American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, which improves its chances for receiving funding, Matthews said.

"Being accredited by the AAALAC means you have the gold seal of approval," Matthews said. "You have reached and maintained the standards of animal care and have gone above and beyond the minimums required by law."

"We knew we were headed toward the direction of becoming AAALAC accredited for a while and there was a real desire from the administration to have a top notch animal research program," he said.

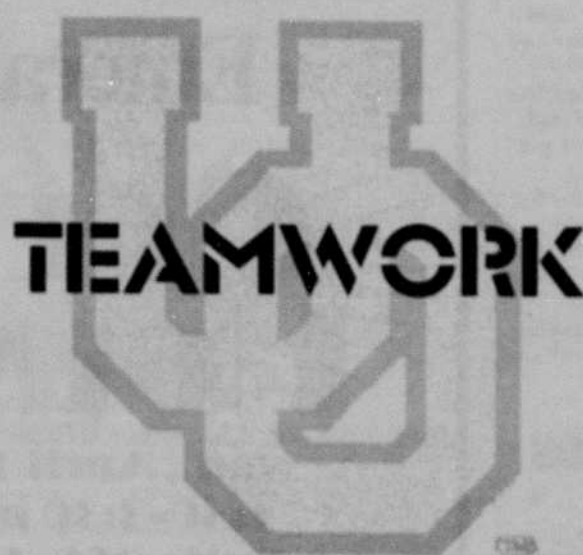
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