

December 16, 2008

Records Management and Information Practices
Attn: Rebecca Beatty
10920 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Dear Rebecca Beatty:

Pursuant to the state open records law, Cal. Gov't Code Secs. 6250 to 6276.48, I am requesting copies of all records pertaining to the use of primate #1994-014, a female vervet monkey at UCLA. I have several questions regarding primate #1994-014.

Is she still alive, and if not, what was the cause of death and when did she die? How is (or was) she being used (ie. research, breeding, other)? Is she caged alone or with other primates, indoors or outdoors? How often does she receive veterinary care? I would like copies of her veterinary reports and any IACUC (Internal Animal Care and Use Committee) documents relating to her.

If she is or has been used for research, what type? Who is conducting the research and where is the funding for the research coming from? Do the studies fall under class A, B, C or D in terms of the level of pain and distress caused and whether relief is given to the animals or not? I would like copies of notes, photos and videos obtained during the studies, if there are any. I would appreciate references to specific journal articles or reports containing the findings and results of the studies in which she has been used, if possible, and if applicable. Are there future plans for primate #1994-014 and if so, what are they?

I would also very much appreciate an explanation of how the research involving this particular primate is relevant to human health. Specifically and concretely, how has UCLA contributed to progress towards human and animal health over the years? If you cannot provide me with this information, could you direct me towards a source where I may obtain it?

I agree to pay any reasonable copying and postage fees of no more than \$50. If the cost should exceed this, please notify me before proceeding. Please also provide a receipt indicating the charges for each document.

If UCLA does not maintain these public records, please let me know who does and include the proper custodian's name and address.

As provided in the open records law, Sec. 6253(c), I will expect your response within ten (10) business days. If you choose to deny this request, please provide a written explanation for the denial including a reference to the specific statutory exemption(s) upon which you rely. Also, please provide all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

Please be advised that I am prepared to pursue whatever legal remedy necessary to obtain access to the requested records. I would note that willful violation of the open records law can result in the award of court costs and reasonable attorney fees. See Sec. 6259(d).

I am requesting this information because I would like to know and honor the personal story of one of the many primates being held at UCLA. To me, the reason that the scientific community has for so long used primates in research – their similarity to human beings and, I would argue, their inability to defend themselves – is exactly why I am so ethically opposed to their continued exploitation. They suffer in these laboratories much as human beings would. If it is unethical to sacrifice an individual human being for the ‘greater good,’ it is unethical to do this to another living being. The fact that these primates are not of the same species as us is not a valid reason to strip them of their right to be free of suffering, torture and exploitation. And regardless of the ethics, regardless of whether this is ‘good’ science or not, we must learn to be compassionate to those around us and to condemn violence rather than fight to defend it. Respect for all life is the ‘greater good’ in my view. I would like to express my support for a national moratorium on all primate research in the United States, and would also like to urge UCLA to end animal research as soon as possible and to retire research animals to sanctuaries once they are no longer of use rather than euthanizing them. After all we have put them through, they deserve a moment of peace.

Thank you for your cooperation and for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annie Chase", written in a cursive style.

Annie Chase

