



January 18, 1995

TO: Addressees

FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research

SUBJECT: Disposition of Laboratory Animals

There was an incident over this past weekend during which a small number of laboratory rodents and associated supplies from one of NIH's animal facilities were discovered to have been removed from the campus without prior approval. The animals were not under active study and were destined for euthanasia. This incident may result in Federal charges being levied against the individual responsible for the removal of the animals.

Scientists, veterinarians and facility managers may be subject to periodic requests from individuals to "adopt" or otherwise remove animals from animal facilities when studies are completed. In the interest of public health and in the well-being of all parties involved, it is NIH policy that no laboratory animals, alive or dead, may be removed from NIH custody without prior approval. Such approval authority resides with the Scientific Director or his/her designee.

While this was an extremely unfortunate occurrence, it serves as a somber reminder that laboratory animals, as well as other Federal material and equipment, must not leave NIH property without prior authority. Please distribute this memorandum widely among your colleagues.


Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

Addressees:
Scientific Directors
Animal Program Directors
Chairpersons, NIH Animal Care and Use Committees
Dr. Wyatt
Dr. Taylor
Mr. Sweat