

The "Good Life" of Stephen Lisberger

On his web site, <http://keck.ucsf.edu/~sgl/>, UCSF animal researcher Stephen Lisberger boasted of "the good life" – lunchtime workouts at the local gym, surfing the web to keep up with the stock market and his favorite sports teams, dining at chic Bay Area restaurants, and spending weekend afternoons at wine-tastings and softball games.

If only "his" monkeys
were so lucky.

Chained on leashes inside their cages, "his" monkeys sit totally alone, metal coils in their eyes, bolts, metal plates, steel cylinders and electrodes drilled and cemented in their skulls. Eyeglasses that distort their vision are cemented to their faces for up to 12 weeks at a time. They are denied free access to fluids in order to keep them thirsty and motivate them to "perform" for juice rewards.



UCSF's Abysmal Record

Since 1998, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has eight times cited UCSF for scores of violations of the Animal Welfare Act, including a failure to maintain an "adequate program for the humane care and use of animals," and operating a system in which employees have a "fear of reprisal" for reporting violations of federal animal welfare laws. UCSF's veterinary care program and its system of research oversight have also repeatedly been cited by the USDA as grossly deficient.

Despite its abysmal record and its unconscionable sanctioning of Lisberger's ghastly experiments, UCSF is one of California's most powerful institutions.

Ending Lisberger's cruelty will not be easy, but IDA is committed this cause.

What You Can Do

1. Contact your U.S. Representatives and Senators. To find your legislators, visit <http://cw2k.capweb.net/voteweb>. Ask them to contact Secretary Thompson to urge him to terminate funding for the Lisberger experiments and establish an oversight system that prevents such objectionable and inhumane experiments from gaining federal support in the future.
3. Spread the word – Contact IDA for additional copies of this brochure for distribution to your friends, family and co-workers. Urge them to voice opposition to this animal cruelty.
4. Join the IDA email alert list for updates and protest information related to these and other IDA campaigns against animal exploitation. For more information:



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The Dark Side of a UC San Francisco Researcher's "Good Life"

AN IDA EXPOSÉ

The information contained in this brochure was obtained from University and US Department of Agriculture documents and from Stephen Lisberger's website. His 21-year history of cruelty continues to this day.

While Stephen Lisberger boasts about his "good life," the monkeys in his lab are fighting to just stay alive.

Prolonged Suffering & Death

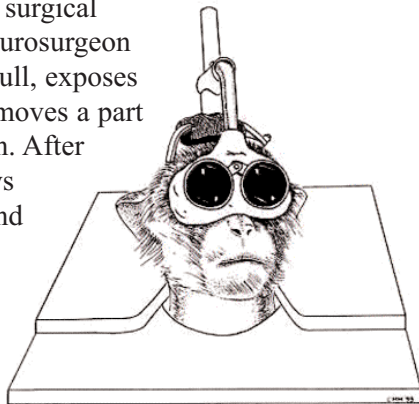
Clinical records from Lisberger's lab reveal a gruesome cycle of sedations, invasive surgical procedures, infections, and medical interventions. Swollen eyes, seeping pus, bleeding surgical wounds, infected brains and depressed behavior are the norm.

To prepare monkeys for his experiments, Lisberger starts by slicing their eyes open with scalpels so that wire coils can be placed inside.

Screws are then drilled into their skulls, and a metal plate is placed under the scalp. Bolts that protrude from the plate through the scalp will later be used to screw monkeys by the head into restraining chairs.

Next, Lisberger drills holes into the monkeys' skulls and inserts stainless steel recording cylinders. Electrodes are driven through the cylinders directly into their brains.

After a series of surgical procedures, a neurosurgeon drills into the skull, exposes the brain and removes a part of it with suction. After this, the monkeys cannot sit or stand for several days, and must be handfed food and drink.



Courtesy of <http://keck.ucsf.edu/~sgl/>.

Some of these surgical procedures are carried out many times, as bone erodes around the various bolts and implants and the eye coils cause such irritation that they must be removed and placed in the other eye. In addition, scar tissue must be peeled from the lining of the brain "dozens of times" for each monkey.

In experiments Lisberger calls "running the monkeys," the primates are strapped into restraining chairs, heads bolted into place so they are unable to move, and placed inside a plastic box. The chair is placed on a turntable that rotates them periodically.

The monkeys are forced to sit in these chairs for up to 8 hours a day, while electrodes implanted in their brains record neurological activity as they move their eyes in a certain pattern for juice rewards.

If a monkey doesn't perform, he or she is denied fluids entirely until the next day when the animal is placed on the experiment again.

For some of these unfortunate animals, the daily horror can last three years or longer.

Science from the Dark Ages

Lisberger has been conducting virtually the same experiments for 21 years. In that time, tremendous progress in research technology has rendered Lisberger's gruesome and archaic methods obsolete. Functional scanning technology, for example, now provides scientists to study the brain non-invasively, and new methods now allow scientists to record cellular brain activity in real human patients, making monkey data unnecessary and irrelevant. Of one such technology, fast MRI, a brain researcher from the University of Pittsburgh told the New York Times, "We have, in a single afternoon, been able to replicate in humans what took 20 years to do in nonhuman primates."



Although this undercover photo of a Lisberger victim was taken many years ago, the image represents the identical suffering that continues in his lab today.