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Americans for Medical Progress Statement on Research Animal Adoptions and Retirements

Washington, D.C. - On occasion, news events generate public questions about the retirement or adoption of animals previously involved in biomedical research that advances both human and veterinary medicine. Below is a statement from Americans for Medical Progress to provide important information and context.

AMP statement:

In most cases, animals involved in biomedical research must be humanely euthanized to obtain critical data being sought to improve human and animal health. However, when this is not necessary, Americans for Medical Progress fully supports the retirement and adoption of research animals, whenever possible. In fact, many scientific organizations in the United States have already established their own adoption/retirement policies and procedures to ensure their animals are well cared for after studies are completed.

The options for post-study placement of research animals vary greatly depending on the species in question. The retirement and adoption of companion animals, such as dogs and cats, is fairly straightforward, as long as the primary focus and intent is locating a caring and suitable home for the involved animals.

There are other situations where retirement options are limited. For example, rhesus macaques and other monkeys often carry diseases or can cause injuries that pose a health threat to humans. These animals cannot be cared for safely and properly by members of the public. Therefore, the only realistic options for post-study placement of nonhuman primates, which remain critical for the cures and treatments expected by us all, are sanctuaries or retirement at their home facility.

Animal rights organizations have repeatedly proposed legislation mandating research animal adoptions. But because these measures are authored by research opponents, they almost always fail to address significant logistical and financial hurdles. Therefore, Americans for Medical Progress believes any new legislation related to animal retirement must account for the space expansion required to house all of these animals and the substantial costs related to providing the specialized housing and care they require.

About Americans for Medical Progress

[Americans for Medical Progress](#) (AMP) is a nonprofit, health research advocacy group that supports the advancement of human and animal medicine through responsible and highly regulated research in animals. AMP informs the public about animal-based research through outreach events like [Biomedical Research Awareness Day](#), news and opinion articles, social media interactions and various online and printed publications. AMP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity supported by the nation's top universities, private research facilities, research-related businesses, scientific and professional societies, as well as by foundation grants and contributions by individuals. AMP's Board of Directors is composed of physicians, researchers, veterinarians and university officials.

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