



4,000 rally against animal cruelty

By RICHARD EGGLESTON
The Associated Press

A line of marchers about 14 blocks long filed silently past two campus laboratories Sunday, then attended a rally to protest alleged unnecessary and needlessly painful animal research.

They dropped black armbands symbolizing dead research animals into coffins in front of the Wisconsin Regional Primate Center, and some of them carried signs suggesting that family pets could become experimental animals if they stray from home.

The rally, organized by Mobilization for Animals, a coalition of animal welfare group, filled the University of Wisconsin Library Mall.

The crowd was estimated at 4,000 persons by Susan J. Anderson, Midwest coordinator of the coalition, which would put Sunday's protest among the largest in Madison in recent years.

Unlike most demonstrations at the UW campus, however, people came from all over the Midwest for this one, and the protesters tended to be in their 30s to 50s rather than college age.

Dean Rowland drove 7½ hours in a van from Bowling Green, Ohio, and brought his friendly white dog Shucka along. Rowland, who is active in animal rights activities, said he had heard about scientists who cut the vocal chords out of experimental animals to keep them from crying.

"If they want to test something for humans, test it on humans, that's what I say," Rowland said.

Actress Amanda Blake came from Phoenix, and sat autographing signs and scraps of paper.

She had heard of an experiment at the UW in which a student broke the wings of 74 chicks to study the survivability of crippled ducks in the wild. All but one died.

"All I can say is why? What is that all about?" Blake asked. "We'd be appalled if we knew about all the crazy experiments that are going on."

She said the rally, one of four across the nation, would help generate public support to bring that kind of experimentation to an end.

"I'm sick and tired of grown men and women electric shocking monkeys, making them smoke cigarettes," Minnesota veterinarian Bill Winters told the crowd.

State Sen. Fred Risser, D-Madison, told the rally that Wisconsin has a strong law prohibiting cruelty to animals, but that research laboratories are exempt from it

"Our statutes should be refined and changed," Risser said. "It's incredible to me how the University of Wisconsin can sanction breaking the wings of 74 ducks to see what happens."

Risser also shrugged off a policy statement for the ethical use of animals that the Wisconsin Primate Center has adopted. His brief speech angered John Wolf, information director for the Primate Center, who asked Risser backstage how legislation could be preferable to voluntary action to protect animal rights while fostering scientific inquiry.

The Primate Center's three-page statement of principles requires:

- Healthful conditions and humane care for experimental animals;
- Use of monkeys only when other experimental methods or animals will not work;
- That experiments be undertaken only when the benefits to humans or other animals "clearly outweigh any pain and suffering experienced by the experimental animals";
- And that the center's animals will not be used to demonstrate established scientific principles when the demonstration causes pain or prolonged stress.

Robert W. Goy, director of the center, said in an interview last week that his institution has included representatives of animal welfare groups on a committee that reviews research

proposals, and has gone so far to address their concerns that some fellow scientists are angry.

“We’re trying to walk a delicate line between not abridging scientific freedom and also meeting the concerns of the public about animal research,” he said.

Two local groups, the Dane County . Humane Society and the Animal Liberation League, did not participate in Sunday’s demonstration.

Richard DiPrima, president of the latter, said he agreed with the general objectives of the protest, but said the target was “inappropriate.”

DiPrima, a member of the Wisconsin Primate Center’s animal welfare committee, helped draft the center’s statement of principles.

“It’s the institution that has gone furthest trying to make progress, while there are others digging their heels into the 19th Century,” he said.