

The New York Times

July 29, 2002, Monday

EDITORIAL DESK

Do Animals Belong in the Lab?

To the Editor:

Re "Debate Over Whether to Defend Animal Tests" (front page, July 23):

My colleagues and I are alarmed at the abandonment of important research in the face of persecution. Dr. Michael Podell was the victim of an increasingly violent segment of the animal rights movement, whose harassment campaigns include personal attacks and death threats against scientists and their families.

Understanding how drug abuse may affect the onset and progress of AIDS, the subject of Dr. Podell's research, could contribute to the health of millions. The use of animals in research is carefully regulated by research institutions and the federal government and is critical to the understanding of diseases that affect humans and animals alike.

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Bethesda, Md., July 23, 2002

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