not improve conditions or standards. Rather, they will increase the costs and regulatory burden of researchers and their institutions by introducing redundant or inconsistent regulations, all the way from the supplier to the end user—from the cost of animals, to training of lab personnel, to procedures of animal care committees. Representatives of animal supply companies (Taconic and Harlan) concurred that the added regulatory costs would be borne by the research community.

We fully support the humane care and treatment of laboratory animals. We strongly oppose efforts to achieve this by means of duplicative and expensive new regulations.

A *Science* editorial about animal rights (P. M. Conn and J. Parker, *Science*'s Compass, 20 Nov., p. 1417) urged that "[s]cientists need to respond forcefully to animal rights advocates, whose arguments are confusing the public and thereby threatening advances in health knowledge and care." The biomedical research community can begin by making its voice heard in response to this issue. Comments can be submitted until 28 May to the USDA's Web site at http://comments.aphis.usda.gov.

AAA Public Affairs Committee (Joseph C. Besharse, Bruce M. Carlson, Donald P. Jenkins, David S. Lester, James L. Olds, Peter Satir)
American Association of Anatomists/Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD, 20814–3998, USA

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Field Primatology and Biomedical Research

The article by Jon Cohen (News of the Week, 5 Feb., p. 772) reporting that human immunodeficiency virus–type 1 (HIV-1) probably originated in central African chimpanzees has prompted calls for collaboration between biomedical scientists and field-workers to investigate the natural epidemiology of retroviruses in nonhuman primates. As field primatologists, we find this development gratifying. Our own studies entail repeated capture, sampling, and release, as well as observation, of African green monkeys (vervets and grivets: *Cercopithecus aethiops*) and baboons (*Papio hamadryas*). Materials drawn from these populations [naturally infected with simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV)] and shared with AIDS researchers have documented the rare occurrence of SIV in Tanzanian yellow baboons in the wild (*1*) and cross-species transmission of SIV between vervets and baboons (*2*) and have confirmed horizontal transmission as the primary mechanism for SIV spread in wild Ethiopian green monkeys (*3, 4*).

Our studies of Ethiopian baboons and grivet monkeys began in 1973. Typically, in a field season we capture animals, take blood, collect morphometric data, determine the age of the animals from dental casts, and record reproductive features. Thus, we have been able to show that female grivets become SIV seropositive before they are adult, while males become SIV positive only when they are fully grown. Recapture of individually recognized animals has allowed us to document instances of seroconversion.

Chimpanzee retroviral ecology may provide a key to the origin of AIDS.

For chimpanzee retroviral epidemiology to be similarly understood, it will be necessary to sample (preferably without capture) a population that has been subject to the long-term observation that enables individual animals to be recognized and their life histories charted. Such information requires laborious accumulation in often dangerous, and generally underfunded, long-term field programs. Perhaps the research needed to understand the zoonotic origins of HIV could accomplish the remarkable: benefit the primate species, the discipline of primatology, and biomedical research.

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Fluorescent Lamps in Photocopiers

Meher Antia (News of the Week, 29 Jan., p. 617) comments that the startup lag in mercury-containing fluorescent tubes keeps them from being used as brake lights for cars and in fax and photocopy machines. Actually, fluorescent exposure

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