

Q1: Will SHM be active in the community?

A1: SHM is excited to become a key contributor to an already thriving economic community. We are planning to invest no less than \$270 million over the next 15+ years in infrastructure along with hiring over 250 people to support our operations. We are committed to being an active supporter of the local community through opportunities such as educational collaborations, co-ops, and internships. In addition to jobs, one of SHM's core values is to prioritize purchasing to support local businesses.

Q2: How are animals transferred to and from your site?

A2: All NHPs must be transported by specialized, climate-controlled carriers that are USDA licensed and follow very strict guidelines to ensure the safety and containment of the animals on board. Each NHP is housed in an individual, secured compartment during transfer and transit.

Q3: Why are animals needed in research?

A3: While the scientific community makes every effort to minimize the use of animals, at certain stages of medical research projects, a living organism must be tested to show that it is safe before a drug or treatment is approved for human trials. For human trials of new drugs or treatments to proceed, by law, there must be appropriate animal testing completed.

Q4: Isn't animal research scientific fraud since animals and humans are different?

A4: There are many similarities between humans and animals. NHPs share more than 98% of DNA with humans. NHPs are used because of their similar genetic makeup and therefore are the best model for predicting how these drugs will interact in a human system.

Q5: Do you need to use NHPs in research? Rats and mice work just as well.

A5: NHP's account for less than 1% of the total number of animals used in research annually. Rats and mice account for 95%. However, research using rodents can only advance science so far; it has limitations. Certain types of research require the responsible use of NHPs.

Human biology and disease can best be studied in NHPs because of their similarity to humans. NHPs have similar brains, muscle structure, reproductive and immune systems, and other physical attributes. A recent report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine provided an in-depth summary of the viability of alternative methods to animal testing as well as the role primates play in medical research. The following are two main conclusions from the report:

- **The Landscape of New Approach Methodologies:** “Based on the current state of the science, there are no alternative approaches that can replace nonhuman primate (NHP) models to answer research questions that require complete multiorgan interactions and integrated biology. Thus, NHPs continue to be essential for the conduct of NIH–supported biomedical research.”
- **Future Needs and Opportunities for NHPs in Biomedical Research:** “Given the nation’s most pressing public health needs and the evolving state of the science, specific domains of research—including neuroscience and neurodegenerative disorders, preparedness for unanticipated communicable infectious threats, immunotherapy, reproduction, aging, and chronic inflammatory diseases—are likely to require increased use of nonhuman primates in the future. The species distribution of future need for such research is likely to remain weighted toward macaques (particularly rhesus and cynomolgus), with increased use of marmosets.”

To read the full report from the National Academies of Science, [CLICK HERE](#).

Q6: Aren’t research animals abused and mistreated?

A6: If animals are not well-treated, the science and knowledge gained from animal-based studies will not be trustworthy and cannot be replicated. Veterinarians, caretakers, and researchers view their work with research animals as a privilege. They fully understand that they are legally, and morally, obligated to ensure the health and well-being of animals in their care.

Q7: Has animal research resulted in any scientific benefits?

A7: Countless scientific benefits have resulted from animal research. Without animal research, we would not have chemotherapy drugs for cancer, high blood pressure medication, the ability to perform organ transplants, insulin drugs for those with diabetes, artificial joint replacements, drugs such as penicillin and other antibiotics, pacemakers, vaccines for COVID, polio, measles, rubella, and tetanus, and hundreds of other medical advances.

Q8: Does animal research only benefit humans?

A8: Animal research not only benefits humans, but also plays a key role in the development of veterinary medicines for livestock, pets, and animals residing in zoos and sanctuaries.

Q9: Is it considered immoral to use animals in research?

A9: To the contrary, we believe it is immoral to allow humans and animals to suffer from disease and illness. The use of animals in human and veterinary research is viewed by those involved as a scientifically justifiable means to an end that must be preserved to ensure that humans and animals don’t have to needlessly endure disease and suffering.