To the following ministers: **Frédérique Vidal, Minister for Higher Education, Research and Innovation; Agnès Buzyn, Minister of Solidarity and Health; Didier Guillaume, Minister of Agriculture and Food,** and also to **Elected members of the Assemblée nationale** and the **Sénat.**

***STOP animal experimentation at the University of Strasbourg and the trade in primates***

 We, the **students of Strasbourg University** (Unistra), members of the **ANIMALISE** association, supported by the scientific committees of **Pro Anima** and **Antidote Europe**, are asking the government to call a halt to animal experimentation and to close the *Centre de Primatologie* and the *Institut Clinique de la Souris*.

We are also asking deputies and senators to open an official inquiry into the experimental validity of the animal model.

The facts are these:

* Unistra buys on average **7,090 rats and mice** a year (Unistra)
* The university owns **18 animal centres**, a Centre of Primatology housing up to 1600 primates, and also manages the **Institut Clinique de la Souris**
* At the Centre de Primatologie (CdP), 80% of the activity is commercial. Male and female monkeys are captured in the wild on the isle of Mauritius and in Vietnam – in contravention of European directives – and are brought to the Centre by Air France, where they undergo blood sampling and other pre-clinical experiments. They are then sold on alive to other European laboratories, or just their organs if they die at the CdP (Pascal Ancé, Director of the CdP).
* In 2017 the public prosecutor ordered a **judicial investigation into breaches of trust and other abuses involving the University of Strasbourg**. The university is accused of **overstepping its authority** because commerce in monkeys is not part of its mission, as well as embezzlement and **illicit loans of labour** to private organizations. The competition commission also accused the university of **abuse of a dominant market position that prejudices innovation and economic stability**.

Why we need to act:

The animal model does not provide a viable biological analogue for human beings.

Animal tests to predict toxicity in medicines intended for humans **fail in 90%** of cases (comité scientifique Antidote Europe)

Each year **197,000 humans die** in Europe from secondary effects of medication extensively tested on other species (*The Lancet*, 2018)

**Bringing together the rights of students and other animals**

The animals involved are **extremely sensitive**, like us. They are **sensitive to pain**, they are aware of what is happening to them and it **terrifies** them. However, **no law requires the use of animals in teaching** and students are free to object to their use **as a matter of conscience**. No student should have to choose between killing a healthy animal and endangering her university career.

**We object to our University’s participation in this torture!**

A recent inquiry by the NGOs *Soko Teirschutz* and *Cruelty Free* shows how animals are treated in the German laboratory LPT. These animals are supplied by Covance, whose monkeys are **supplied by the Centre de Primatologie of Unistra**. The images are chilling! The practices depicted also take place in France, where the same rules apply. <http://www.leparisien.fr/faits-divers/experimentation-sur-des-animaux-des-images-choc-filmees-dans-un-laboratoire-allemand-17-10-2019-8175096.php>

A petition to close the Centre de Primatologie already has 153,000 signatures of which 144,000 can be found on this site: <https://www.mesopinions.com/petition/animaux/refusons-ouverture-extension-elevage1600-primates/13210>

**Substitutive methods already exist and have been shown to work**

Animal experimentation is used in three principal domains: toxicology, biomedical research and life sciences education. However there exist hundreds of methods of research and teaching that do not depend on animals. These methods are **cheaper to use** and represent substantial **technological and scientific advance**. Several universities have already given up animal experimentation, a more efficient strategy than that of Unistra. By sticking to animal experimentation the university continues to inhibit the development of competitive innovative methods.

To learn more about alternative methods of research, read the article by Dr André Ménache that appeared in Science Enjeu Santé, page 2. <https://fr.calameo.com/read/001611404237b6d4acb85>

**To summarise we, the students of Unistra, want to launch our university on a path of modern science using both existing and innovative methods of substitution for animal experimentation, and making Unistra a leader in research without victims.**

To learn more about our campaign **#UnistraLibereMoi**, see our page [https://www.facebook.com/ANIMALISE/](https://www.facebook.com/ANIMALISE/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel&eid=ARAqjkpDf8ThCoaUK4X87pdi0KqUdYNzavLKzTXUWEgBgjEQukBAcgf20rMhrxdtShGLycL2BHoSAF8s) and follow us at ***Instagram* @ANIMALISE.asso**

Thanks to **Pro Anima** and **Antidote Europe** for their scientific expertise and their support !

Together, on behalf of animals, let’s liberate the University of Strasbourg !