A SUSPENDED PLATFORM FOR USE IN CHRONIC RESTRAINT OF MONKEYS¹

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When rhesus monkeys are restrained for long periods in commercially available primate chairs, they tend to develop neck and mandibular lesions and slough their ischial callosities. Findley (1959) developed an intermediate restraining device that circumvents these difficulties by permitting considerable freedom of movement while supporting the animal on a heavy wire or rod platform. With Findley's arrangement the animal can more readily adjust its posture to remove pressures from the neck and mandibular regions. Also, the device provides for primary body support to be distributed over the animal's feet rather than over the ischial callosities, as is the case with commercial chairs. In chronic experiments that require more restraint than can be provided by Findley's device (*e.g.*, experiments involving chronic venous catheterization), it is necessary to use the standard lucite chair or an equivalent restraining device.

We have found that the arrangement presented in Fig. 1 provides the necessary degree of chronic restraint without the subject's developing ischial callosity breakdown or neck and mandibular lesions. In place of the two-bar seat provided with most commercial primate chairs, a 9 in. by 9 in. platform is constructed of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. brass rod, which is cemented with epoxy glue to $\frac{5}{8}$ in. by $\frac{5}{8}$ in. by $\frac{1}{8}$ in. aluminum angle (E). The platform is suspended from the chair by four pieces of no. 40 copper-plated steel sash chain (D). The chain length is adjusted so that the monkey's bottom rib is immediately above the abdomen plate on the chair (B). For ease of cleaning, hooks are used to secure the plat-

Fig. 1. Schematic representation of the lucite cockpit of a standard primate restraining chair with a 9 in. by 9 in. platform suspended below the chair. Only every second rod on the seat is shown to make the figure clearer. A. The lucite cockpit. B. Adjustable abdomen plate. C. Stainless steel seat housing. D. Number 40 sash chain. E. Platform constructed of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. brass rods cemented to $\frac{5}{8}$ in. by $\frac{5}{8}$ in. by $\frac{1}{8}$ in. aluminum angle.

form to the chair. By maintaining an extra platform, a clean one can be exchanged for the dirty one in a matter of seconds by unhooking the latter and replacing it. Using the suspended platform with a standard restraining chair, monkeys have been maintained without untoward effects for six to nine months.

REFERENCES

- Findley, J. D. An intermediate restraining device for working with monkeys. *J. exp. Anal. Behav.*, 1959, 2, 121.

¹This research was supported in part by research grants MH 11135-01 and MH 0565 from the National Institute of Mental Health to the University of Minnesota.