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Animal Activists Destroy Years of Research in Italy

Activists occupy and barricade themselves on the fourth floor of a Pharmacology Dept of a vivisection lab in Milano (Italy).

Over the weekend animal rights activists entered a laboratory conducting animal studies, set loose some of the animals and switched cages, ruining years worth of research, according to lab officials.

Nature [reported that the unauthorized entering](#) of the laboratory in the pharmacology department at the University of Milan was part of a protest staged by people with the group [Fermare Green Hill](#) (or Stop Green Hill).

Pharmacologist Francesca Guidobono-Cavalchini, who works in the building, said, according to Nature, that they believe five activists obtained a keycard to enter the building illegally. Once inside, the activists set free some animals and mixed up cages and labels. Two even put chains around their necks, attaching the other end to the main double doors of the facility, which could cause bodily harm if the opened by authorities.

"These animals did not choose to be there and have no chance to leave," the activists [stated on their website](#) (translated via Google Translate). "With this unprecedented action we want to document the conditions in which animals live and experiments that are conducted, showing them to the whole society with photographs and films; give visibility to the problem of vivisection and the places where it is practiced, thus giving a name also those who practice it, to start a siege peaceful inside and in front of the laboratory with the request that the animals are released and that the Ministry and the Palaces of an end to the false promises and really started to take steps towards the abolition of animal testing."

After 10 hours, activists from [Contro Green Hill](#) who had occupied the laboratory in the pharmacology department of Milano, RESCUED HUNDREDS OF MICE AND ONE RABBIT. These animals are now safe from the hands of vivisectioners.

Nature reported Paola Viani, the deputy director with the pharmacology department, saying he had to work with police to reach a compromise with the activists. They ended up taking almost 100 animals with them and were supposedly told they could take more from the facility later.

"It will take three people at least a year to build up the colonies we had of mouse models of different psychiatric diseases," neurobiologist Michela Matteoli said.

Guidobono-Cavalchini told Nature the university intends to press charges for the damage done.

On Sunday, scientists [issued a letter](#) (translated by Google) stating that the activists damage "goes far beyond the loss of animals illegally removed," but extends to a loss of scientific discovery and hundreds of thousands of euros.

Acknowledging that there is a controversial component to animal research, the scientists continue in the letter stating that it can be of service to humanity and thus ask that the activists be brought to justice for "the agencies, individuals and families of patients who fund our research."

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