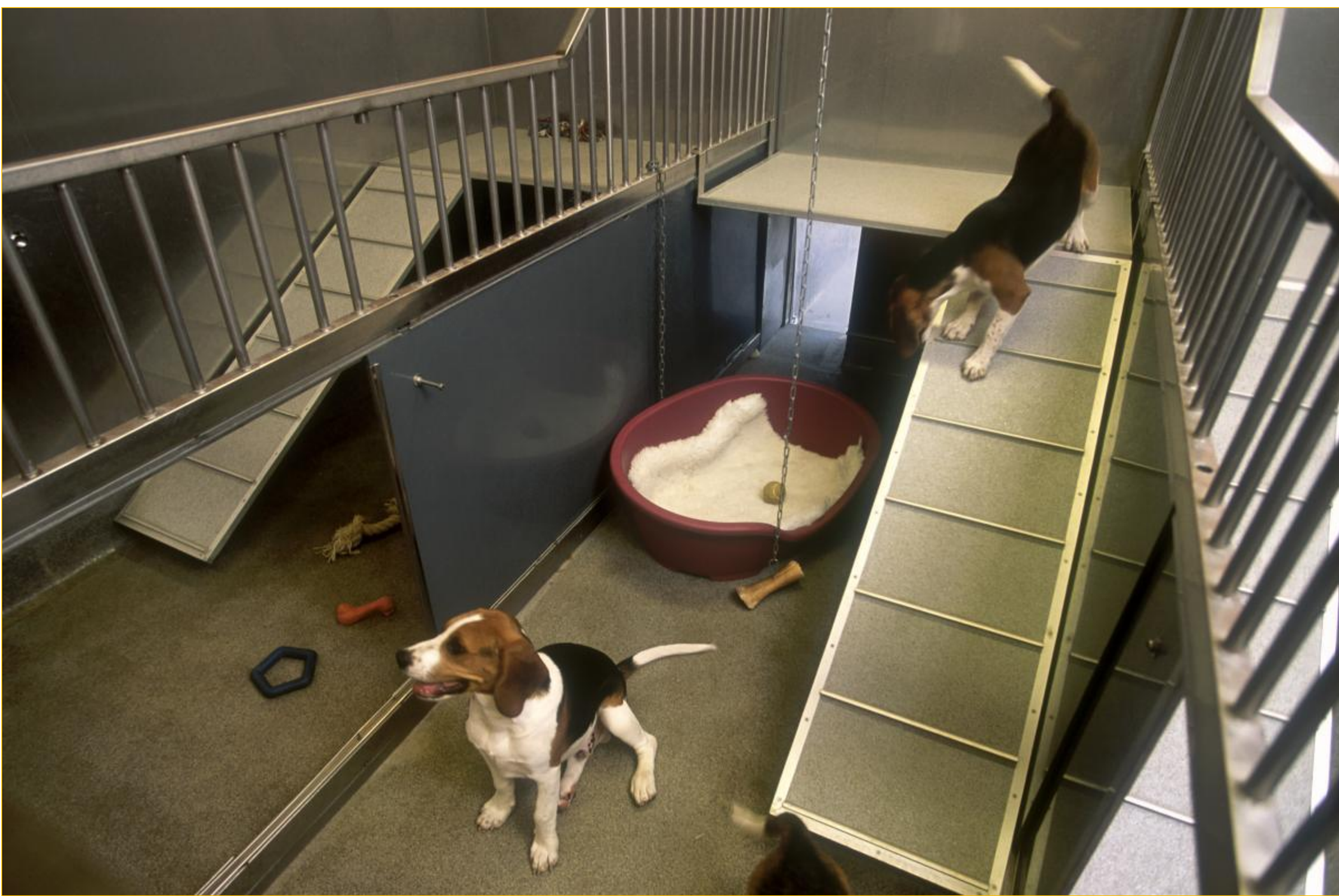


Context

- Animal research is a highly controversial socio-ethical issue.
- Research facilities have moved toward instilling a culture of care and improving laboratory animal wellbeing.
- An area receiving an increasing amount of focus is the 'end-point' for research animals, which is typically humane euthanasia.
- As the UK is viewed as a leader in ensuring animal wellbeing, the question of why so many animals are killed post-experiment is increasingly important. This is especially true when the animal is healthy and thus has the capacity for 'life after the laboratory'.
- There is consequently increasing consideration toward rehoming these animals.
- Laboratory animals can be rehomed to a variety of settings, including sanctuaries, zoos, private homes, farms, aquariums and slaughterhouses.



Research questions

How are stakeholder relations changing with the emergence of laboratory animal rehoming?

What new forms of human/animal relations are developing as practices change?

What new spaces of care emerge as practices change, and how are these negotiated?

Methods

The methodology is 2-fold:

- 1) A questionnaire to UK research institutions to gather baseline data regarding how many animals are rehomed, rehoming policies and processes, and associated facility level benefits and obstacles.
- 2) Approximately 20 stakeholder interviews amongst 4 primary groups:
 - Research facility staff
 - Veterinary professionals
 - Rehoming organisation staff
 - Members of the public who have rehomed laboratory animals

Rehoming research animals: Policy

Rehoming in the UK is currently offered as an option, but is not a requirement as it is in countries such as India.

Consent to rehome can only be legally approved if the following requirements are met:



Research aims

Provide information to support research facilities in rehoming animals, thus improving laboratory animal well-being, raising the morale of facility staff, and facilitating positive stakeholder collaborations.

Questions for you

1. What do you feel are the main barriers to rehoming laboratory animals within the research community?
2. What implications may rehoming have on promoting the ethical profile of a research facility, fostering a culture of care, and on staff morale?
3. Where do anti-vivisectionist concerns sit in relation to laboratory animal rehoming?