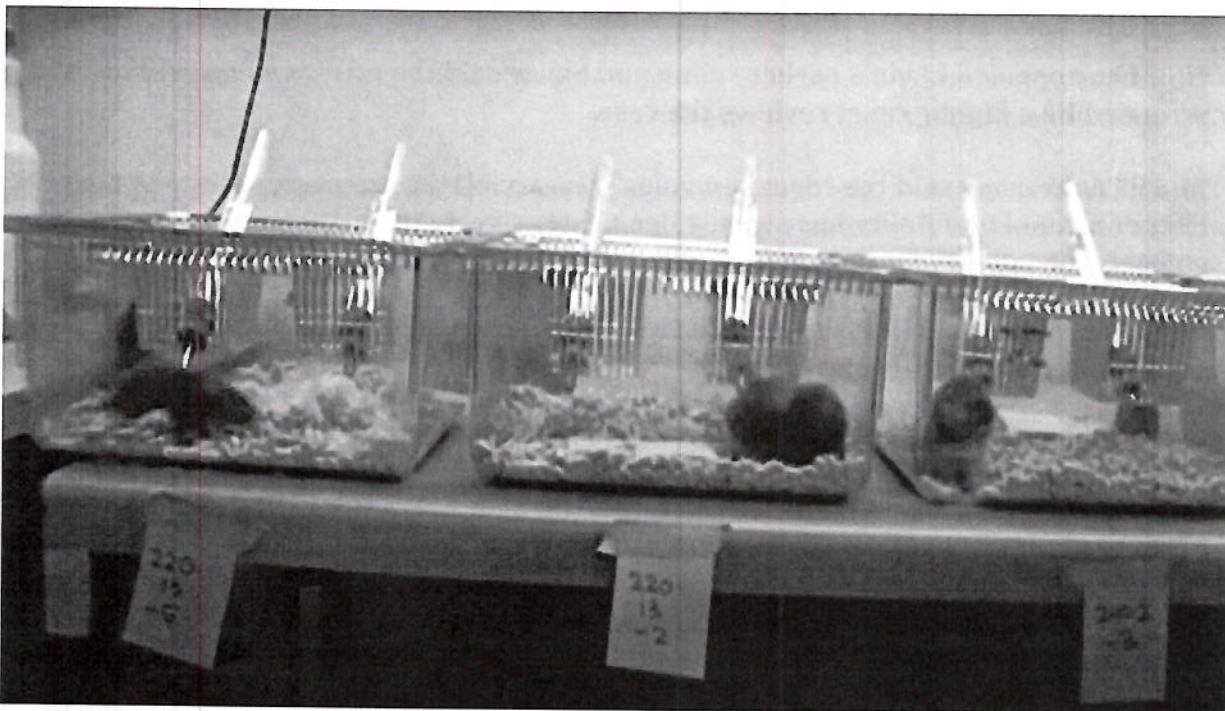




From the Desk of  
Representative  
David Gombery

## OHSU must pay \$430K to PETA in 'drunken voles' legal fight, judge rules

• Updated: Jun. 23, 2023, 5:25 p.m.]



A still image from a video obtained by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals shows one of the vole experiments conducted by an OHSU researcher in 2017. Courtesy: PETA

By [Zane Sparling](#) | [The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

A judge awarded roughly \$434,000 in legal fees Friday to an animal rights group engaged in a yearslong legal battle with Oregon Health & Science University over the school's research into the effect of alcohol on prairie voles.

The case began in late 2017, when OHSU researcher Andrey Ryabinin published a journal article finding that alcohol weakened the partner bond between male and female voles but had little effect on aggression among male voles.

In 2020, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals filed a lawsuit accusing OHSU of failing to provide videos of the experiments, which were funded by almost \$2 million in federal grants, in response to public records requests.

The university initially said the videos had been destroyed by researchers, but PETA's forensic examiner eventually discovered they were still accessible on a lab computer's file directory, court records show.