

Say No to Animal Experiments

Humane Research : Essential, not an Alternative
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Animal Experiments: A Necessary Evil?

Trillions of tax-payers dollars are wasted annually on animal experiments. And millions more are spent by the pro-vivisection industry to persuade us that medical progress would come to a grinding halt if it were devoid of animal models. So, while cringing at the horrific 'scientific' procedures endured by animals, even animal lovers may be lulled into conceding that animal experimentation is a "necessary evil" which must continue for the benefit of our own kind. We encourage you to compare our argument with those of the animal experimentation lobby, who have vested interests in continuing animal studies.

It is absolutely vital to medical progress that animal models are abandoned.

Animal studies are dangerously misleading. In 75-95% of cases, animal experiments fail to predict human reactions. **92% of drugs tested "safe and effective" in animals fail when applied to humans.** Of the 8% that do reach the public, more than half are relabelled or withdrawn because animal experiments failed to predict crucial side effects. This means there is *always* less (*often much less*) than a 50-50 chance that an animal study will yield a treatment or medication for human application. What is the use of an animal model if it is not predictive? With adverse drug reactions now the fourth major cause of death in the Western World, drugs would actually be much safer if they were *not* tested on animals.

Species difference negates similarities.

Data extrapolated from animals to humans can have devastating results. You may remember the Thalidomide tragedy in which the morning sickness medication caused severe birth defects in thousands of infants. This drug passed vigorous animal testing. In fact, out of approx. 10 strains of rats, 15 strains of mice, 11 breeds of rabbits, 2 breeds of dogs, 3 strains of hamsters, 8 species of primates and other species such as cats, armadillos, guinea pigs, pigs, and ferrets, Thalidomide only caused occasional birth defects. Frustrated attempts to reproduce the human teratogenic effects of Thalidomide in animals also delayed the recall of this drug, causing a further 10,000 children to be affected. The British Medical Journal reports that trials on humans are often conducted concurrently with animal experiments and in many instances, clinical trials go ahead despite evidence of harm in animals. So as you can see, animal experimentation is not an alternative to testing on humans; **any person taking a new substance is being tested on. It makes sense to study our own species.** By doing so, health disasters can be reduced or even avoided by replacing animal experiments with an



array of modern tests such as clinical studies, in-vitro assays, DNA chips, human tissues, micro-dose studies, computer models, autopsy or epidemiology studies (this is not an exhaustive list) which give more accurate, time and cost effective predictions of human conditions and responses.

Independent of the invasive experiments themselves, the laboratory environment causes stress which affect research results.

Each year in Australia alone, 4-6 million animals endure experimental burns, poisoning, surgery, brain damage, organ transplantation and much more, sometimes without anaesthesia or pain relief. **Worldwide, it has been estimated that at least 20-30 animals die in labs each second.** This number is increasing despite industry claims that procedures involving animals are being Reduced, Refined and Replaced.



Animals have complex psychological, emotional and social lives. In laboratories, deprivation of space, natural habitat and socialisation; as well

as stress, fear and anxiety arising from routine daily procedures such as handling, cage cleaning, blood collection and force feeding, often leads to stereotypical behaviour: gnawing at bars, incessant pacing, cannibalism and self-mutilation for example; all of which may be repeated hundreds of times a day. Significant biological indicators are associated with this stress response, which can interfere with scientific accuracy and research results.

If scientists have the technology to extract data from animals despite all the variables – why don't they have the ability to replace animals altogether?

Animal experimentation has frustrated, misled and delayed medical progress, at great human and animal expense. Animal experimentation protects pharmaceutical companies, not humans.

Who funds animal experiments?

It's hard to believe, but around the country, taxpayers' dollars are being used to fund cruel animal tests. While Government grants contribute the majority of funds, charities rely on public donations to make up the gap. This means YOUR donation may be used to fund animal testing!

Donate ONLY to Humane Charities

Why support unethical and unscientific animal experiments when Human-modelled modalities decrease human and animal suffering and increase our medical knowledge? **Support Humane Charities ONLY to ensure your donation will not be used to fund animal experiments.**

See our website for a list of Humane Charities and more details.