

Science without suffering

There are many effective and well-established methods of research that do not use animals.

They include *in vitro* (test tube) studies on human tissues and cells, microdosing, microfluidic devices, computer modelling, a wide range of state-of-the-art brain and body scanners (including MRI, CAT and PET scans), microarrays and, of course, important traditional methods such as epidemiology, clinical observation and autopsies.



What you can do

- Make sure your donation isn't funding vivisection. Many health and medical research charities, such as the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Parkinson's UK and the Alzheimer's Society, still fund experiments on animals. **Contact Animal Aid for a list of humane charities or go to: www.animalaid.org.uk/go/charities**
- Contact Animal Aid for a **FREE** set of campaign postcards addressed to the above four charities, telling them that you won't support them until they stop funding animal experiments.
- Write a letter to your local newspaper explaining why animal experiments are cruel and unreliable, and suggest people contact Animal Aid for more information.
- Distribute our leaflets, stickers, posters and petitions.
- Donate to Animal Aid in order to help fund this campaign.

Yes, I want to support the campaign to prevent animal experiments

I enclose a cheque or postal order for £ payable to Animal Aid to support this campaign.

Please send me a **FREE** Action Pack.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: (optional) _____

Email: (optional) _____



Please return this form with any payment, to Animal Aid, The Old Chapel, Bradford Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1AW. Thank you. Tel: 01732 364546 | Email: info@animalaid.org.uk

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Animal experiments:

cruel and unreliable



Every year in British laboratories, animals are poisoned, brain-damaged and given lethal diseases.

The many differences between animals and people mean that animal experiments can be dangerously misleading.



www.animalaid.org.uk

Animal experiments are cruel

Animals experience pain, fear and loneliness. We are told that they are less intelligent and important than us, and so hurting them is acceptable. But it is wrong to cause deliberate suffering and death to any living animal.

Inside laboratories, animals have their hearts and other vital organs deliberately damaged. They are poisoned to death with toxic chemicals and subjected to radiation burns. Brain-damaged monkeys are forced to perform repetitive tasks in order to gain a 'reward' of food or water. Animals have been shot and exposed to nerve gases and given addictive drugs. Those who do not die during the experiment itself are invariably killed so that their bodies can be examined.



Animal experiments are unreliable

Animals are used to test the safety of industrial and agricultural chemicals as well as pharmaceutical drugs. They are also used in disease research.

What is more illogical than experimenting on mice or dogs and pretending that this teaches us about people? All animals breathe and need food and water to survive. But, beyond that, the differences between us can be vast. Animals do not suffer from the same diseases, and in the same ways, as we do. Their reaction to chemicals is also different. What poisons one species can be harmless to another.



Some of the differences between humans and animals

- Paracetamol is toxic to cats
- Chimpanzees are essentially immune to HIV, malaria and hepatitis

- Penicillin is toxic to guinea pigs
- Aspirin causes birth defects in most animals, but not in people



Drug testing

Numerous drugs passed as 'safe' in animal tests have caused side effects in people - ranging from skin rashes, nausea and diarrhoea, to blindness, birth defects, stroke and fatal liver failure.

- The first five-year trial of an HIV vaccine, 'Aidsvax', was declared a success after tests on monkeys, but **failed to protect 8,000 volunteers** in the human trial from HIV infection.
- In lab tests, the blockbuster painkiller Vioxx was shown to be protective of animals' hearts, yet when it was administered to human patients, **thousands of them suffered heart attacks**.
- Trials of an experimental drug called TGN1412 caused **nightmarish side effects in human volunteers**. Monkeys had previously been given doses of the same drug that were 500 times bigger but they showed no significant adverse reactions.



Disease research

Mice are given cancers by having human tumour cells transplanted under their skin, or by being genetically manipulated.

In Parkinson's disease research, monkey's brains are deliberately damaged with toxic chemicals, causing severe disability. Heart attacks are triggered in dogs by tying off their hearts' main blood supply. This is not how human beings become sick. Nor do artificially created diseases progress in the same way as the human conditions. Many researchers are now claiming that using genetically engineered animals with human DNA will make the experiments reliable. But mice genetically engineered to suffer from Alzheimer's disease, for example, have failed to accurately reproduce the features of the disease, contributing to many costly drug failures.

Why does animal research continue?

It has become a deeply-rooted habit, and scientists who oppose animal experiments may be unwilling to speak out publicly, for fear of damaging their reputation and career prospects.

Drug companies also cite animal experiments to defend against legal challenges by patients who have suffered serious side effects, stating that, having performed animal tests, they have satisfied the regulatory authorities. Despite this, many scientists support our campaign.

