



World Day for
**LABORATORY
ANIMALS**

Remember the
VICTIMS OF VIVISECTION

Every year on April 24, compassionate people around the world speak out on behalf of the victims of vivisection.

World Day for Laboratory Animals is a time to reflect upon the suffering of millions of mice, cats, monkeys, fish, rats, dogs, birds, rabbits, pigs, horses and many other species. Despite mounting evidence demonstrating that animal data cannot be reliably applied to human medicine, the suffering continues.





The suffering

Animals are poisoned to death in 'safety tests'. In disease research, they are surgically mutilated, blinded, burnt, starved, psychologically tormented and infected with lethal viruses. Yet even our closest genetic relative, the chimpanzee, is essentially unharmed by a range of illnesses that devastate people. These include HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and common malaria.

The scale

The UK conducts about three million experiments every year – more than any other EU country. Many of these so-called 'procedures' are funded by taxpayers. Only the USA and Japan are thought to top the UK's shameful tally.

The evidence

There is much evidence that animal experiments are unreliable. For instance, a recent major study, published in the influential British Medical Journal, assessed the accuracy of more than 220 research projects that used thousands of animals. Around half failed to predict human outcomes accurately – a 'success' rate no better than tossing a coin. Happily, there are signs that such evidence – and the impact of years of campaigning by animal advocates – is beginning to produce real change.

Breakthrough

A poll of British GPs found that more than 80 per cent are concerned about the reliability of animal research and would welcome an independent scientific evaluation. In the European Parliament, a large majority of MEPs has called for an end to monkey experiments. And, in a move that is resonating in scientific circles around the world, leading US government agencies have declared that using animals to test the safety of drugs and chemicals is unreliable, expensive and slow. Their goal is to abandon the use of live animals altogether and switch to modern, humane testing methods, such as the use of cells and computer models.

The British government must make a similar commitment and be forced by public pressure to be true to its word. You can help bring about this fundamental change.

Action: Join the global movement against vivisection

Please send me a **FREE** information and action pack

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Please make cheques payable to Animal Aid and post to:

The Old Chapel, Bradford Street,
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www.animalaid.org.uk

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Animal Aid exposes and campaigns peacefully against all animal abuse, and promotes a cruelty-free lifestyle.

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