

LAB TOOLS?

'Animal experimentation will one day be judged a crime.'

Leonardo da Vinci

Beagles are the most commonly used dog because they are friendly and trusting.



A mouse used in cancer research with a tumour larger than his own head.

Paws for thought: Which products that you use regularly do you think have been tested on animals?



Every year around 3 million animals are used in experiments in British laboratories.

Locked away in laboratories, animals are forced to ingest poisonous chemicals, and infected with diseases, in order to test potential cures. But the tests tell us nothing about how drugs and chemicals will affect humans, because all species react differently. There are many modern tests that do not use animals, and do give accurate results, if only all



FOOD?

Over 2 million of the 15 million lambs born every year die in their first few days, mostly from malnutrition, disease and exposure.

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Every year in the UK nearly 1,000 million animals are killed so that people can eat their flesh.

Mother pig and piglets in a farrowing crate. Piglets are taken from their mother at around 4 weeks old and killed at 4 - 6 months for pork, bacon, ham and sausages.



Paws for thought: Is it right to kill animals for food, when we can live perfectly healthily on a vegetarian diet?

Most of these animals are reared inside huge, crowded, stinking factory farms, where they are bred to grow as big as possible in the shortest possible time. They are unable to take proper exercise or do many of the things they would naturally do. At only a few weeks or months old, they die a terrifying death at the slaughterhouse.

The male chicks of egg-laying hens are treated as trash. They are killed at a day old and their dead bodies sold as fertilizer.

'Becoming a vegetarian was one of the first decisions I made not to be part of the system. The only way you ever make a difference is when you personally do something.'

Thom Yorke, vocalist Radiohead

FUN?



Animals are used for entertainment in all sorts of ways. They are shot and fished for sport, kept in zoos and made to perform tricks in circuses. Others are forced to race so that people can bet on them.

Every year, hundreds of horses are raced to death. They die on the course, or in training, or are destroyed because they are no longer needed for racing.



Many people like going to the zoo. But how many stop to think about whether wild animals are happy living in cages? Often the animals' frustration can be seen in the way they pace up and down. Some say that wild animal acts are an essential part of the circus. But is it right to make them perform unnatural acts for our amusement?



Around the world, millions of animals such as foxes, mink, lynx, wolves and beavers are killed every year for fur coats. They are trapped in the wild, or bred in filthy, cramped fur farms. Rabbits are reared on farms and their fur is used for trim on coats and gloves.



'The question is not can they reason? Nor can they talk? But can they suffer?'

Jeremy Bentham, English philosopher (1748-1832)

Paws for thought: Does the fact that people make money out of an activity such as pheasant shooting or horse racing, mean it is justified?

Just like people, animals can experience pain and pleasure, loneliness and fear. They have families, they care for their young, and they want to be safe, comfortable and free - just like you and me.

Breeders and pet shops make money out of selling animals, whilst thousands of others are left homeless in sanctuaries. Many abandoned animals are killed because nobody adopts them.

Millions of 'exotic' animals, such as parrots, snakes, tropical fish and monkeys, are caught in the wild and imported for people to keep as pets. Large numbers die during capture and transport, and many suffer short, unhappy lives because their owners don't know how to look after them properly.



PETS?

Today, more than half the households in Britain own a pet. We are certainly a nation of 'animal keepers', but do we deserve our reputation as 'animal lovers'?



It doesn't matter if your companion animal is a large horse or a tiny goldfish - all have individual needs. All require a proper home, space, the correct diet, a constant water supply, exercise, companionship and opportunities for play and privacy.

