

DON'T LEAVE A
LEGACY **OF**
SUFFERING

An Animal Aid Campaign



76 per cent of respondents in a YouGov national opinion poll have said that they would be unlikely to knowingly leave money in their will to a charity that funds animal experiments.³ Yet vivisection-funding organisations receive millions of pounds from legacies.

Our **DON'T LEAVE A LEGACY OF SUFFERING campaign aims to bridge this stark gap in public awareness, and encourage people to leave gifts only to charities that fund humane research.**

If animal experiments were scientifically valid, our campaign could be accused of threatening a valuable source of funding for important research. But evidence points to vivisection being a crude and outdated method that can produce dangerously misleading results. Non-animal techniques – such as the use of human cells and tissues, computer modelling, high-resolution scanning and clinical studies – are directly relevant to humans and much more likely to generate progress than animal-focused research. If charities change their policies accordingly, then this will be of huge benefit to people as well as to animals.

Vast medical research budget

Members of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), the sector's leading representative body, spent more than £1.2 billion in 2014.⁴ While no figures are given as to the proportion of that huge total which involves animal research, AMRC is a keen advocate of animal experimentation. In fact all its members are now compelled to publicly declare support for vivisection on their websites.

Cancer research tops legacy chart

In 2014, medical research was the UK's favourite cause to donate to for the eighth year running.⁵ It is therefore hardly surprising that Cancer Research UK was the UK's highest earner from legacies in 2013 (in a survey of 2,549 charities). The British Heart Foundation ranked fifth and the Alzheimer's Society also featured in the top 30.⁶

WHY THE CAMPAIGN?

Many major medical research charities, such as Cancer Research UK (CRUK), the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and the Alzheimer's Society, fund experiments on animals. Legacies are vital to such charities' programmes of research – they make up more than a third of CRUK's research funding¹ and pay for almost half of the BHF's research activity².

For some charities, gifts left in wills generate more income than any other source.



Here are some examples of animal experiments supported by UK medical charities, and the income each organisation derives from legacies.



Cancer Research UK

RESEARCH EXAMPLE:

CRUK has co-funded experiments in which rodents were poisoned for around six months with an industrial chemical so that they would develop cancer.⁷ Another group of furless, genetically modified mice were injected with human cancer cells and forced to endure the growth of a tumour inside them for three weeks before some of them were treated.

LEGACY PROFILE:

The charity's total income in 2014-15 was £621 million. 27 per cent of this – £169 million – came from gifts people had left in their wills. Legacy income is, in CRUK's own words, at 'historically high levels' and in 2014-15 it generated more income than any other source.⁸



The British Heart Foundation

RESEARCH EXAMPLE:

The BHF has supported a catalogue of repulsive experiments, including dogs and pigs being deliberately given heart attacks, pregnant sheep being surgically mutilated and part-suffocated, and rats being deprived of oxygen for two weeks.⁹

LEGACY PROFILE:

The BHF's total income in 2013-14 was £136.9 million. Legacies accounted for 41 per cent of this and totalled £56 million. As was the case for CRUK, gifts in wills generated more income than any other source.¹⁰





The Alzheimer's Society

RESEARCH EXAMPLE:

The Alzheimer's Society has co-funded research in which mice, genetically altered to suffer from a crude version of Alzheimer's disease, were subjected to highly stressful behavioural tests. These involved being forced to swim around in a pool of water looking for an escape route.¹¹ Mice are scared of being immersed in water.

LEGACY PROFILE:

The charity had a total income in 2013-14 of £82.6 million. £14.7 million of this came from legacies – 18 per cent of the total. For this charity, legacies were the third highest source of income.¹²

References

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THE WAY FORWARD

Many people who are thinking of leaving a legacy to a medical research charity would be shocked to discover that their money might be used to pay for animal research. Yet it doesn't have to be this way.

Animal Aid has compiled a list of humane charities that do not rely on cruel and unreliable animal experimentation.

The list is available free of charge, in various online and hard-copy formats.

In summary, we are asking the public to leave a legacy of sound science and compassion.

Our message is: don't support medical research charities that fund or conduct animal research.

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DON'T LEAVE A LEGACY OF SUFFERING

Support cruelty-free science

Find out more about our campaign at

www.victimsofcharity.org/legacy-of-suffering

and order or download your free guides to medical and health charities and their policies on animal experiments.



Please contact the Animal Aid office for free copies of our 'Don't leave a legacy of suffering' leaflet and also additional copies of this briefing.

