

# It's a crying shame



**Hurting animals  
in laboratories  
won't improve  
human health**

**Animals have their eyes surgically removed during vision experiments. Electric shocks and flashing lights are used to trigger epileptic fits. They are shot and subjected to nerve gases in warfare experiments. They are dosed with addictive drugs, fed turpentine to produce abscesses, poisoned to death and emotionally tormented in psychology tests.**

## ABOUT ANIMAL AID

Animal Aid is an education and campaign group opposed to all animal cruelty and exploitation.

We produce scientific reports and videos, conduct undercover investigations and stage protests to expose the hidden suffering of millions of animals.

Working tirelessly and imaginatively through the media, schools and the high streets of Britain, Animal Aid is at the forefront of producing real change for animals.

*Animal Aid relies solely on public support to fund our urgent work. By becoming a member or supporter you can really make a difference for animals.*

*Please tick the appropriate boxes and return this form to Animal Aid. On behalf of animals everywhere, thank you for your support.*

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☐ Please send me further information about animal experiments

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THE OLD CHAPEL, BRADFORD STREET,  
TONBRIDGE, KENT TN9 1AW

Tel No: 01732 364546 Fax No: 01732 366 533  
Email: [info@animalaid.org.uk](mailto:info@animalaid.org.uk)  
Web: [www.animalaid.org.uk](http://www.animalaid.org.uk)



# animal experiments are bad science

We like to think that science is based on logic. But what could be more illogical than using mice or dogs in medical research and pretending that this teaches us about people? All animals – human beings included – feel pain and need food and water to survive. But, beyond that, the differences between us are often vast. What poisons one species can be completely harmless to another.

## Dangerously Misleading

Little wonder that numerous drugs passed 'safe' on the basis of animal tests have caused side effects in human patients, ranging from all-too-common skin rashes, nausea and diarrhoea, to blindness, birth defects and fatal liver failure. In fact, studies show that in only 5–25% of cases are the harmful side effects of medicines correctly predicted by animal experiments.

At the same time, many drugs which did cause obvious physical illness in animals during experiments have still been marketed for human consumption. This is because the drug companies remained convinced that the new product would be both useful and profitable. The tests were 'merely a guide', they have argued, not to be interpreted too literally.

If, however, a new drug does become a major success and causes no apparent human injuries, the pro-vivisection lobby will say that this was all due to the animal experiments.

## Animals are not People

As well as drug-testing, vivisectors use animals to create 'models' of human disease, for which cures are then sought. Mice are given cancers by being injected with tumorous cells and toxic chemicals. In arthritis research, pain and inflammation are deliberately inflicted by dosing the animals with chemicals. Heart attacks are induced in dogs by tying a ligature around the coronary artery.

This is not how human beings get sick. Nor do the human conditions progress like those in deliberately maimed and disabled animals.

Some researchers recognise the uselessness of these 'disease models', but say that the creation of special, genetically engineered animals who carry DNA from human beings and other 'foreign' species will solve such problems. But this is just a more elaborate piece of deception. The 'cystic fibrosis mouse' – genetically altered to become sick and to



pic. © Brian Gurn

Every year in British laboratories, around 3 million animals are tormented and killed in the name of scientific research. They are poisoned, scalded, wounded, blinded, brain damaged and given lethal diseases.

Two thirds will receive no anaesthetic during 'procedures' which are often more suited to a medieval torture chamber than a modern lab.

It is wrong to cause deliberate injury and death to animals, even in the hope of benefiting people. Doing to animals what we would not dare have done to ourselves amounts to cowardice and bullying. Animals feel pain and distress, like we do. Even the Home Office, which regulates the experiments, recognises their suffering.

We hear that animals are 'less intelligent' than us and so hurting them is 'acceptable'. It is also argued that humans are the most important species on earth and that this gives us the right. Are supporters of animal experiments really saying that we should be

die prematurely – was hailed as a major breakthrough. And yet these lab-engineered animals do not mimic the serious lung problems seen in cystic fibrosis patients.

## Why are animals still used?

Because animals are comparatively cheap and easy to handle, their use has become a habit for generations of science students. Animals are also good business for those who breed them or supply cages and the various restraining, cutting and force-feeding equipment used in the experiments.

Animal experiments also protect drug companies sued by patients who have suffered serious side effects. British courts are easily fooled by claims that, having performed animal tests, a manufacturer is blameless for any injuries.

# animal experiments are immoral



less considerate of those who appear to have a lower intellectual ability? This shameful logic would justify experimenting on mentally deficient human beings.

You would not offer up your own dog or cat for vivisection. Please don't stand by and let other animals suffer.

## Science Without Torture

People who oppose animal experiments want improvements in human health as much as anyone else. We want good science; a science that produces usable results and which is governed by logic, integrity and compassion. Only then can we tackle the massive toll of death and suffering from cancer, heart disease, asthma and other so-called 'diseases of affluence'.

There are numerous ways to explore the causes and cures for human illness without resorting to primitive and fruitless animal experiments. They include laboratory tests using human tissues and genetic material; computer simulations of biological systems; careful monitoring of patients; and population studies to explore, for example, dietary, hereditary or environmental factors in disease.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Send for more copies of this leaflet to distribute. 100 cost £ 2; 500 cost £8.
2. Write to your MP and local council leader to find out what animal experiments take place

- close to you – in universities, hospitals and in commercial laboratories.
3. Contact local and national newspapers and radio stations about the pointlessness and

- cruelty of animal experiments.
4. Send a stamped addressed envelope to Animal Aid for details of our campaigns against vivisection and how you can take part.