

Animal experiments

We asked an RVC researcher about the College's animal experiments and how this can be acceptable for an institution which the public expects to heal animals, especially companion animals. We were told that the College make a very clear distinction between those animals brought in for treatment and animals which are associated with research.

This is not a distinction that Animal Aid can, or is willing to, make.

PLEASE join us in urging the RVC to stop their programme of animal research.

- Please contact the Animal Aid office for more copies of this leaflet, or to order an 'End Animal Experiments' pack.
- Please also visit our microsite about the RVC and their programme of animal experimentation:

www.animalaid.org.uk/go/RVC



Animal Aid, The Old Chapel, Bradford Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1AW.
Tel: 01732 364546 | info@animalaid.org.uk

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Heal NOT Harm



You would think that the **Royal Veterinary College** was solely concerned with healing animals. But its programme of vivisection **seriously harms animals.**



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RVC personnel typically conduct around **9,000 experiments** on animals each year. Many of these experiments are intended to advance human, **not veterinary**, medicine.

Experiments include:



Dogs

Dogs bred with genetic flaws, leading them to suffer a canine version of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Their symptoms include muscle-wasting and breathing problems. They were to undergo blood tests and muscle biopsies and be killed at around 18 months of age.



Sheep

Sheep had their wombs removed and re-inserted to try to improve human fertility. One animal died on the operating table, two suffered kidney failure and one procedure was abandoned due to the size of the ewe.



Guinea fowl

Guinea fowl had electrodes inserted into their leg muscles and were made to run on a treadmill.



Unreliable results

The unreliability of translating animal research to human medicine is well-known. There are also scientific problems with using animals in laboratories to develop and test veterinary drugs. The laboratory environment, with all its associated sources of stress, influences test results and makes them unreliable.

Veterinary surgeons swear an oath, in exchange for the right to practise veterinary surgery in the UK. Every practitioner makes a declaration which ends:

"... ABOVE ALL, my constant endeavour will be to ensure the health and welfare of animals committed to my care."

