



**Warfare experiments:  
INDEFENSIBLE**

There are many types of animal experiments. They are all cruel and unreliable, as the information from animals cannot be reliably applied to humans. Animal experiments not only cause injury and death to animals, but also cause harm to humans, due to their unreliable results.

One area of animal experiments that is particularly disturbing is **warfare experiments**. Animals can be exposed to nerve agents, biological weapons or even simulations of bomb blasts.

One of the most infamous places for warfare experiments is Porton Down, a Ministry of Defence laboratory near Salisbury. Founded in 1916, Porton Down is still involved in terrible warfare experiments using animals.

**The number of animals used each year at Porton Down varies, but in 2017 it was almost 4,000.**

**The animals involved included monkeys, pigs, mice, guinea pigs and rats.**



There are several types of weapons which can be included in the term 'warfare' and which have been used on animals in tests:



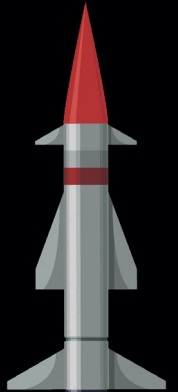
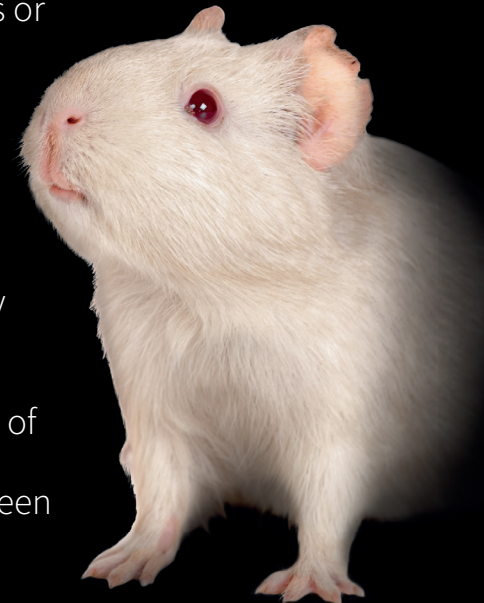
**Chemical weapons** are chemicals which inflict injury or death. One example is VX, an extremely toxic nerve agent. As the name suggests, nerve agents affect how nerves are transmitted in the body. This typically means that the nerves cannot be 'switched off'. This 'overload' can lead to breathing problems, coma and death.

**Blast injuries** involve mimicking the shock wave which would be caused by a blast. The resulting change in pressure can physically damage the body's tissues, leading to injury or death.



**Biological weapons** use pathogens in order to cause disease. Pathogens include viruses, bacteria, fungi and also toxins produced by plants or animals.

A paper published in 2017 described experiments where **guinea pigs were exposed to VX**. The animals had the chemical painted onto their backs, and they were observed for symptoms, including 'writhing', 'continuous tremor', 'gasping' and 'production of tears'. The suffering these poor animals underwent would have been severe.





We know that animal experiments are cruel and unreliable, but there is something especially chilling about experiments where substances that are designed to cause terrible suffering and death in humans are intentionally given to animals. The use of such weapons against humans is banned, and yet it is still possible to expose animals to the chemicals in order to test potential treatments. This is utterly unethical, so please join us in our campaign to make warfare experiments a thing of the past.

## I want to support the campaign for a ban on warfare experiments.

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