

# ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS

CRUEL & UNRELIABLE

Every year in British laboratories,  
animals are poisoned, brain-damaged  
and given lethal diseases.





# Animals experience pain, fear and loneliness.



## Animal experiments are cruel

**Animals experience pain, fear and loneliness. We are told that they are less intelligent and less important than us, and so hurting them is acceptable. But it is wrong to cause deliberate pain and suffering to any living animal.**

Inside laboratories, animals have their hearts and other vital organs deliberately damaged. They are poisoned to death with toxic chemicals and subjected to surgical

mutilations. Monkeys are deliberately brain-damaged and forced to perform repetitive tasks in behavioural studies. Animals have been shot, exposed to nerve gases and given addictive drugs.

Those who do not die during the experiment itself are usually killed so that their organs can be taken and examined. Others may be used in more than one experiment.

## Animal experiments are unreliable

**Animals are used to test drugs and chemicals and to study diseases.**

Experimenting on mice, dogs and other animals assumes their bodies respond just like ours — yet the science shows this isn't the case. These individuals often experience illnesses differently from humans, and their reactions to drugs or toxins can vary dramatically. A substance that harms a mouse may have no effect on a human, and vice versa.

Some of the differences between humans and animals include:



Mice **cannot vomit**



**Penicillin** is toxic to guinea pigs



**Paracetamol** is toxic to cats



**Chocolate** is toxic to dogs

## Dangerous results

**Studies suggest animal experiments are no more reliable than tossing a coin.** Nine out of ten drugs that pass animal tests fail in human clinical trials.

This poor prediction can result in unsafe drugs reaching humans — including TGNI412, which caused multiple organ failure in volunteers at doses 500 times lower than those “safe” in monkeys.



**No more reliable than tossing a coin.**

Misleading animal tests can also result in vital drugs being discarded. For example, cancer drugs Gleevec and tamoxifen were nearly abandoned because they were toxic to animals.

## Misleading disease research

**Mice are given cancers by having human tumour cells inserted, or by being genetically manipulated.**

In Parkinson’s research, monkeys’ brains are damaged with toxic chemicals, causing severe disability. Heart attacks are triggered in dogs by tying off their hearts’ blood supply. This is not how humans become ill, nor do these artificial diseases progress like human conditions.

Many researchers are now claiming that using genetically altered animals will make the experiments more reliable. But even mice engineered to suffer from Alzheimer’s fail to reproduce key features, contributing to costly drug failures.

A report from a workshop on non-animal Parkinson’s research concluded: “No animal model mimics complex PD neuropathology or accurately replicates clinical symptoms.”

## Growing doubts amongst scientists

**Doubts are growing in the scientific community about the utility of animal research, with many experts speaking out against it.** A 2022 paper describes how scientific reviews repeatedly find

“overwhelming evidence that animal experiments suffer from a lack of scientific rigour, raising doubts about the robustness of their findings and, consequently, their clinical relevance.”

## Science without suffering

There are many **modern, human-relevant methods** of research that do not use animals and whose results are directly applicable to humans.

There are also important human-based traditional methods such as population studies, clinical observation and autopsies.



Cell and tissue studies



Organ-on-a-chip technology



Computer modelling



Microdosing



State-of-the-art brain and body scanners

## What you can do

- ✗ **Don't:** Donate to medical research charities such as the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Parkinson's UK and the Alzheimer's Society, which fund experiments on animals and are dependent on donations from the public.
- ✓ **Do:** Visit our website for more information about charities that fund animal experiments:  
[www.animalaid.org.uk/campaigns/victims-of-charity](http://www.animalaid.org.uk/campaigns/victims-of-charity)
- ✓ **Do:** When purchasing cosmetic products, choose items with the Leaping Bunny logo or a similar 'cruelty-free' certification.
- ✓ **Do:** Order our free Animal Experiments leaflets via our website, to hand out to the public.
- ✓ **Do:** Ask your MP to Ban the LD50 Test:  
[www.animalaid.org.uk/go/endanimalexperiments](http://www.animalaid.org.uk/go/endanimalexperiments)
- ✓ **Do:** Sign up for email updates about our animal experiments campaigns, as well as our other work, by visiting: [www.animalaid.org.uk/go/enews](http://www.animalaid.org.uk/go/enews)



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