

# LICENSED CRUELTY

Footage of toxicity testing in UK laboratories  
hasn't been seen in over a decade — until now.

# What is Licensed Cruelty?

Every year, **millions of animals are harmed** in UK laboratories.

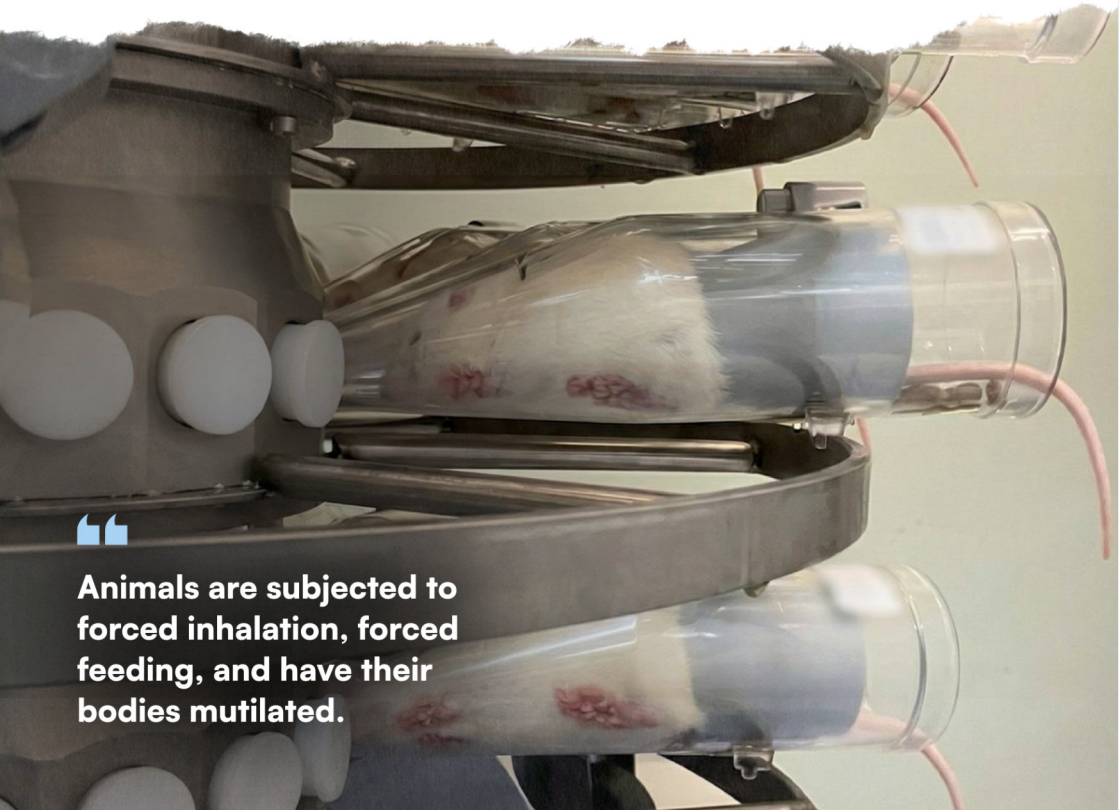
Many are used in **toxicity testing**, where substances, like industrial chemicals and pesticides, are tested on live animals to see if they cause harm.



Animals are subjected to **forced inhalation, forced feeding, and have their bodies mutilated** so that substances can be applied to the wound. They endure pain, fear, and long-term suffering and most animals are killed after months, even years, of testing.

**This cruelty is not illegal.**

In fact, it is licensed and regulated by the Home Office. This is what we mean by “Licensed Cruelty”.



**Animals are subjected to forced inhalation, forced feeding, and have their bodies mutilated.**

# The campaign to end animal testing

The Licensed Cruelty campaign began when we saw **footage of rabbits, rats, dogs, pigs and primates** being used for licensed experiments in UK laboratories as recently as 2025.

This unprecedented footage, filmed by lab workers, was provided to Animals International and shows a level of cruelty that's gone unseen for years:



Monkeys restrained in 'primate chairs'



Rats squeezed into 'inhalation towers'



Pregnant rabbits immobilised in plastic containers



Beagles and monkeys wearing masks for forced inhalation



Chemicals applied to wounds cut into pigs' backs

Watch the  
footage here

[www.toxicity.inc/gb](http://www.toxicity.inc/gb)



Experimenting on mice, dogs, and other animals assumes their bodies respond just like ours — but mounting scientific evidence shows **this isn't the case**.

In fact, many drugs deemed 'safe' through animal testing have **gone on to harm humans**. Non-animal methods are more reliable, safer, and cruelty-free.

9/10 drugs deemed safe on animals fail human clinical trials.

## Our asks

We've been **campaigning against animal testing for nearly 50 years** and support for animal-free science has grown substantially — not just from the public, but among scientists and policymakers too.







But this new footage shows **real change isn't happening fast enough**. That's why we're calling on the Government to:

- Suspend licensing of all new tests
- Conduct a full review of all current licences
- Urgently deliver their promise to replace animals in science.

**Tell your MP it's time to end animal testing.**

## What else you can do

-  Share the footage widely:  
[www.toxicity.inc/gb](http://www.toxicity.inc/gb)
-  Order **free** Animal Experiments leaflets via our website
-  Join our **Volunteer Network**
-  Sign up for email updates:  
[www.animalaid.org.uk/enews](http://www.animalaid.org.uk/enews)



**Tell your MP  
it's time to end  
animal testing**



The Old Chapel, Bradford Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1AW  
01732 364546 • [info@animalaid.org.uk](mailto:info@animalaid.org.uk) • [www.animalaid.org.uk](http://www.animalaid.org.uk)

 [@AnimalAid](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalAid)  [/AnimalAid](https://www.linkedin.com/company/AnimalAid)  [@animalaid\\_uk](https://twitter.com/animalaid_uk)

Animal Aid exposes and campaigns peacefully against all animal abuse and promotes a cruelty-free lifestyle.  
Registered in the UK as Animal Abuse Injustice and Defence Society, Company No. 01787309.  
Image credits: © Animals International / Toxicity Inc.