

Boots policy on the testing of cosmetics and toiletries products / Boots.

Contributors

Boots Company.

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POLICY ON THE TESTING OF COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES PRODUCTS

Boots, as well as being the leading retailer of cosmetics and toiletries, is also a leading manufacturer with a long established tradition in the production of a wide range of high quality products.

Whilst we fully recognise our obligations to our customers in ensuring the safety of all of our products, we are also highly aware of the ethical considerations in the use of animals for safety testing of cosmetic and toiletry products. In order to ensure that our merchandise meets the high standards which we set, as well as to meet legal requirements, we employ highly qualified and skilled scientists to research, develop and evaluate new and existing products.

We are sometimes asked by our customers what our policy is on the use of animals in testing the safety of our products and their ingredients. The following questions are typical of those which we receive.

Q Do you use animals to test any Boots branded cosmetic and toiletry products?

A No. We do not use animals in the testing of cosmetics and toiletry products manufactured by Boots, nor do we use any other company or research establishment to do work on our behalf.

Q Do you use animals to test any ingredients contained within these products?

A No. We obtain our raw ingredients from reputable suppliers and only use ingredients where the safety record has been established. We do not make any product available for sale unless our medical advisers are satisfied about their safety.

In assessing the ingredients used in our products, we do of course evaluate all background work that has been undertaken. In some cases, legal requirements may have dictated that animals would have been used in safety tests as part of this work because no alternative tests were available.

Q

If you don't use animals to test your products, how do you test them?

A

Firstly, we assess the data available on the safety of the ingredients. Secondly, we conduct patch tests with formulated product on human volunteers from our staff, and finally we may test the formulated products on a panel of volunteer users.

Q

Do you sell in Boots stores any products that may have been tested on animals?

A

Yes. We do sell products made by other companies that may have required the use of animals to ensure that the product is safe to use, since we do not believe it is right to deny our customers the opportunity to buy the products they want.

However, a significant amount of research is currently being undertaken to develop alternative procedures aimed at satisfying legal requirements without involving tests on animals. Boots does not itself use animals to test cosmetic and toiletry products and we fully and actively support this research work into alternative procedures. At present, Boots is funding a substantial research programme with The College of Medicine at the University of Wales.

We trust that this clearly states Boots' policy on the use of animals in testing cosmetic and toiletry products but, should you require any further information, please write to:

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
THE BOOTS COMPANY PLC
NOTTINGHAM NG2 3AA.