

Imagine having your body left to science... while you're still in it / PETA.

Contributors

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Publication/Creation

London : People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, 2000.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/njf8x93p>

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More than 2.7 million animals are killed in British laboratories every year.

Human gene studies, human cell models and cultures, state-of-the-art software, "super" computers, artificial skin, and test-tube studies are now replacing animals in modern laboratories. The Pharmagene laboratory, based in Royston, for example, uses human tissues and sophisticated computer technologies – and no animals – for drug development and testing. In the US, Physiome Sciences develops three-dimensional computer-based models of human organs, which exhibit the biophysical properties of both normal and diseased cells, for use in drug testing and medical research.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Buy from manufacturers that have permanently banned all animal tests (lists available from PETA). Educate friends and family about cruelty-free shopping.
- Make sure that donations to health charities only go to those which do not fund animal experiments (call PETA for a free guide to which UK charities do and don't use animals).
- Reduce your own risk of disease by avoiding the consumption of meat, eggs and dairy products.
- If you work in a laboratory where animals are abused, or you suspect that animals are suffering in local facilities, call or write to PETA at the address below.

4/02

PETA

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5/00

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PETA

Misleading ... costly ... and cruel



Just a few years ago, every cosmetics company poisoned animals with lipstick, shampoo, hair spray or other "beauty" products.

Car manufacturers pummelled monkeys' heads with hydraulic "arms" to simulate crashes.

Laboratory technicians killed a rabbit every time they tested a woman for pregnancy.

These tests were thought to be "state of the art". Today, thanks to consumer activists and imaginative scientists, there are better, kinder methods.

But millions of mice, rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, cats, dogs, primates, sheep, cows, pigs and other animals are still

experimented on and killed in laboratories every year. Instead of developing more advanced scientific techniques, vivisectors infect animals with diseases that they would never contract under normal circumstances. They force-feed and inject them with toxic chemicals. They sever animals' spines, break their bones, and cement electrodes into their skulls. Military researchers sicken and wound animals with radiation, chemical agents and guns even though the effects of these weapons on humans are already well documented. Psychologists subject animals to maternal deprivation, drug and alcohol addiction and other torments.

65% of procedures are carried out without anaesthesia, although the experiments are likely to cause pain and suffering, and the animals' only legal protection is the weak, vague and poorly enforced Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act. Although the Act requires the use of non-animal alternatives wherever possible, this is often ignored and has done little to reduce the number of animals used. Many crude experiments are duplicated again and again because there is no central information system that lists data from previous experiments.

In addition to being cruel, animal studies often lead down blind alleys and impede progress. Taking healthy beings of a different species, artificially inducing a condition, keeping them in unnatural and stressful conditions, then trying to apply the "results" to humans rarely works. Physiological interactions vary enormously from species to species. The polio vaccine, often cited as an example of why animal studies are necessary, was actually delayed for decades because experiments on monkeys led to a misunderstanding of the mechanism of polio infection.

At the end of an animal testing programme the animals are almost always killed.

"If you have information on human genes, what's the point of going back to animals?"

Pharmagene co-founder Gordon Baxter

