

Animal testing harms humans / SHAC.

Contributors

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (Society)

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ANIMAL TESTING

A photograph of a woman with long blonde hair, smiling and holding a white cat. She is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt. The background shows bare tree branches against a blue sky.

My name is Gail. I've got congenital scoliosis (curvature of the spine). I am campaigning to close down Huntingdon Life Sciences because I believe HLS are harming humans. Animal testing holds back medical science and I know it will not find a cure for me.

HARMS HUMANS

THE HUMAN COST OF ANIMAL SUFFERING

Over three million animals are killed every year in British laboratories. It is claimed that these experiments will lead to cures for human diseases and save human lives, but the fact is that there are many doctors and scientists worldwide campaigning for the abolition of animal experiments because of the damage done to humans by drugs "safety-tested" on animals. In Britain today, one person in six is in hospital due to side-effects from prescription drugs.

DRUG DISASTERS

The following drugs were passed as safe after animal tests :

18 people have died after taking anti-smoking drug Zyban (GlaxoSmithkline) and horrific side-effects have affected 3,457 people in the eight months following its launch.

Phenylpropanolamine, an ingredient in dozens of over the counter cold remedies such as GlaxoSmithkline's Day Nurse and Contact400, increases the risk of bleeding of the brain by 50%, and causes about 500 people under 50 to suffer strokes caused every year.

Anti-diarrhoeal drug Clioquinol, which caused 30,000 cases of blindness and/or paralysis, and killed thousands of people worldwide.

In 1996 the diabetic drug Alredase caused one in twenty users to be stricken with sometimes irreversible liver damage, as well as killing some patients.

WHY ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS CONTINUE

The pharmaceutical industry is a multi-billion pound industry – for instance Imigran, an anti-migraine drug, has annual sales of over £700 million which explains the motivation for getting an ever-increasing amount of useless and often duplicated drugs onto the market.

You can prove or disprove anything with animal experiments depending on which animals you use – according to decades of animal experiments smoking does not cause cancer and asbestos is safe! Procter & Gamble used an artificial musk despite it failing animal tests. They said that results were 'of little relevance to humans'.

THE WAY FORWARD

There are already many far more accurate and reliable methods of research than crude animal tests, including: human cell and tissue cultures, organ culture, computer modelling, studies of population and clinical trials. Animal experiments are diverting millions of pounds worth of vital funding away from proper medical research that will cure human diseases and save human life.

"Animal models differ from their human counterparts. Conclusions drawn from animal research, when applied to human disease, are likely to delay progress, mislead and do harm to the patient." Moneim A. Fadali, M.D., Cardiac Surgeon, 1995

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