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Contributors

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BUAV CAMPAIGNING TO END ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS





THE BRITISH UNION FOR THE ABOLITION OF VIVISECTION

Towards the end of the last century, public opposition to animal experiments began to rise sharply. It was against this background that philosopher and social reformer Frances Power Cobbe founded the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) in 1898. Today, nearly 100 years later, the BUAV still leads the campaign to end animal experiments.

The early campaigners spoke eloquently of the need to end vivisection, but social and technological changes have meant that in the late Twentieth Century we are able to campaign far more effectively on behalf of suffering animals.

Local street campaigning follows a successful investigation.



Obtaining photographic evidence, like this of beagles at Huntingdon Research Centre, is a vital part of our undercover investigations.

Nowadays, we use an increasingly sophisticated approach to the problem. We are able to employ such methods as computer searches and undercover investigations to expose the often secret world of animal testing. The power of the media is then used to ensure that our findings are made public. By harnessing the support which press stories generate we can apply pressure on commercial concerns to stop them using animals in experiments.

One place where we have always ensured that animals have had a voice is in Parliament, although our lobbyists are now equally at home in Brussels and Strasbourg as they are in Westminster. Our political profile is now at an all time high and we enjoy the support of MP's from all major parties. Such support is vital, as without it we will never be able to achieve the changes in the law necessary to save animals from the horrors of the laboratory.

To make sure our arguments are heard and understood, the BUAV produces a wide selection of educational materials. These range from specialist publications such as the Parliamentary briefing sent to all MP's – to the hundreds of

thousands of information packs we send to our supporters and members of the public. Such educational materials are backed up with campaign videos, books and exhibitions.

But some things have changed little over the years. Just as we did in 1898, we continue to stimulate debate about the moral and scientific issues involved in animal experimentation. And whether it be in television or radio studios; the church hall or the town hall; the boardroom or the classroom – BUAV representatives can be heard speaking on behalf of suffering animals.



The BUAV enjoys the support of MPs and MEPs from all major parties.

THE BUAV IN ACTION

The BUAV has undertaken many ambitious campaigns and investigations in recent years which have not only gained widespread media attention and public support – but have resulted in real victories against animal suffering.

For instance, our undercover investigators were able to reveal that a dog 'dealer' was supplying retired racing Greyhounds, intended for family homes, to laboratories. Widespread media coverage resulted in the closure of the dealer and the introduction of tighter rules by the National Greyhound Racing Club.



Campaign monkey Gina joins MPs Liz Lynne, Roger Gale and Terry Lewis to present over 300,000 signatures to the Department of the Environment calling for a ban on importing primates for research.

A massive investigation into the international trade in primates for research revealed evidence of shocking cruelty to animals. As a result we have launched a worldwide campaign to end this appalling trade. Early on in the campaign, it was discovered that two well known wildlife parks were supplying monkeys to British laboratories. After the press covered our story, both parks immediately stopped the practice.

We also led the UK campaign which managed to stop car manufacturer General Motors using animals in crash tests – a major victory against one of the world's largest companies.

Our 'Choose Cruelty-Free' campaign began on a high note when clothing giant Benetton were persuaded to drop all animal tests for their cosmetics range. Since then the campaign,



backed by many well-known celebrities, has gone from strength to strength with a whole host of cosmetics companies abandoning animal testing. Many major companies such as Sainsbury's and Co-op actually sought our advice before implementing a 'cruelty-free' policy.

Every time our investigators work undercover in laboratories we gain more evidence that animal experiments are cruel and unnecessary. We can also show how even the woefully inadequate laws which are meant to give laboratory animals some protection are not being enforced. Recently the Home Office were forced to take strong action after we discovered that unnecessary animal use and falsification of test data were taking place at a major British testing centre.

By bringing the shocking truth of animal experiments to the attention of the public and government, each new BUAV campaign and investigation brings the end of animal experiments one step closer.

WHAT IS VIVISECTION?

'Vivisection' literally means "the cutting up of living animals". But the term is now used generally to describe a variety of experiments which are carried out on over three million animals each year.

BUAV campaigns have made regular front page news.



Toxicity tests are routinely performed on dogs, rabbits, rats and mice by commercial companies. Animals are given often huge doses of substances by injection or force feeding and then observed for symptoms such as convulsions, vomiting, breathing difficulties and cries of pain. Anything from drugs to insecticides can be tested in this way.

Products such as weedkillers and cosmetics are used on animals in **irritancy tests**. The most notorious of these is the Draize test where substances are dropped into the eyes of rabbits.

Thousands of animals are subjected to barbaric treatment during **psychology experiments**. Methods used in experimental psychology include starvation, separation of young animals from their mothers, electric shock treatment and deliberate brain damage.



BUAV's 'Paradise Lost' campaign aims to save monkeys from the misery of the laboratory.

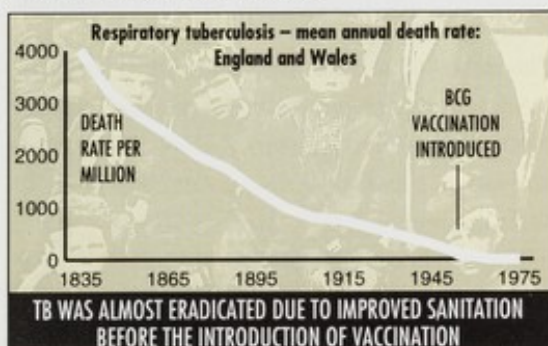
The growth of **genetic engineering** has made a big impact on the vivisection industry. Now experimenters can ensure that animals are 'programmed' from birth to develop painful and deadly diseases, so that they can be used as mere laboratory tools.

These examples represent just a few of the many ways animals can be made to suffer in laboratories. Experiments are conducted by profit-seeking companies, medical research charities, universities, hospitals and public health organisations.

WHY IS VIVISECTION WRONG?

The BUAV was founded on the philosophy that inflicting pain, suffering and death on helpless animals during experiments is morally wrong. And for many the moral argument is sufficient reason to oppose vivisection.

But there is also a wealth of evidence to show that animal experiments are misleading and divert attention and resources away from more fruitful avenues of research.



The notion that results from animal tests can be directly applied to humans has been proved false time and time again:

- Aspirin causes birth defects in cats but not in humans
- Penicillin is toxic to guinea pigs and hamsters
- Morphine sedates people but excites cats
- Benzene causes leukaemia in humans but not in mice
- Saccharin causes cancer in rats but not in humans

There is always a real danger that, because of our reliance on animal tests, unsafe drugs and other products can be released into the marketplace for human use. An example of this was the heart drug Eraldin. Although the drug was thoroughly tested on animals, it had devastating side effects on human patients – including blindness and even death – before it was withdrawn from the market.

Many members of the scientific community agree with our views on animal testing.

“...the knowledge gained from studies in animals is often not pertinent to human beings, will almost certainly be inadequate, and may even be misleading.”

Arnold D Welch, Department of Pharmacology, Yale University School of Medicine.

“...the sad reflection must be that the countless animals who have died in psychology experiments have died not only cruelly, but in vain.”

Don Bannister, Medical Research Council external Scientific Staff, High Royds Hospital.

There are many alternatives to animal experimentation. Some of these methods, such as population and clinical studies, have been used successfully for years and some methods have been developed recently with advances in scanning and computer technology.

A great deal of research can be conducted in test tubes using human tissue cultures which have proved to be an extremely effective means of developing drugs and producing vaccines.

Unfortunately, research to develop non animal testing methods is seriously underfunded. To try and alleviate this problem the BUAV is calling for a Government-funded strategy to promote the use and development of humane research methods.

Animal testing causes needless pain and suffering to thousands of animals each day. It is of little or no value and can, in fact, produce dangerously misleading results. Relying on animal testing drains time and resources away from the use and development of more valuable research methods. Humane and superior research alternatives do exist. For these reasons, the BUAV is campaigning to end animal testing and stop the suffering of animals.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

If you share our view that animal testing is immoral, unscientific and must be stopped, there are a number of ways you can help:



- **Join us**

Membership of the BUAV is open to anyone who opposes animal experimentation. As a BUAV member you will receive our quarterly *Campaign Report*, merchandise catalogues and regular updates on all our activities.

- **Send a donation**

The work of the BUAV is entirely dependent upon fundraising activities and donations.

- **Be an active supporter**

Request our Activities Pack which tells how you can raise money and become actively involved in our campaigns.

- **Write your will!**

The BUAV has produced a free booklet explaining how you can easily write a will which not only protects your family but also helps stop animal suffering.

- **Shop carefully**

Before you buy cosmetics and toiletries, request a copy of our free list of companies which **do not** test their products on animals.

- **Donate with discretion**

If you give to research charities, send for our list of those charities which do not fund experiments on animals.

- **Have some fun!**

We organise a variety of fundraising activities in which you can take part such as raffles, street collections and our Walk for Laboratory Animals. Write to the Fundraising Unit for details of activities in your area. You can also contact our Fundraising Unit for merchandise catalogues.

- **Write to your MP**

Express your views on animal testing in a letter to your MP. Address the letter to your MP at House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA.

Together we can end animal experiments forever.



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