

**Are drugs really
safe for humans
after animal testing?**

**Do you really
believe it when
researchers tell you
laboratory animals
don't suffer?**

**The National Anti-
Vivisection Society
(NAVS) believes that the
scientific evidence
shows that millions of
animals suffer and die
in laboratories all over
the world - in
unreliable, unethical,
and unnecessary
experiments.**

**April 24th is
World Lab
Animal Day.**



Can animal tests be trusted?

The recent case of test drug TGN1412 which left two men critically ill on life support shows just how misleading animal test data can be. The drug had been given to monkeys in doses 500 times stronger than the human volunteers received without ill effect, but turned a fit and healthy young man into what was described as the “elephant man”. The manufacturer said the drug had been extensively tested in rabbits and monkeys with no adverse effects.

But drug failure in human trials after animal tests are not uncommon. Around a third of drugs fail in the first human trials.

The fundamental problem of animal-based research is that each species reacts differently to substances—

- Penicillin – a useful antibiotic for people, kills guinea pigs.
- Tamoxifen – designed as a contraceptive; works in rats, but has opposite effect in women;



Breast implants in rabbits

A breast implant device was inserted

under rabbits' skin, with eight implant sites per animal. No clinical signs of toxicity were found, but one rabbit had large scratches on its back, another had bruising, and some implant wounds on a third remained open. The post mortem found chronic inflammation and some haemorrhaging. Some implants had moved and could not be found. These animals suffered terribly and died needlessly after a short miserable life.

Monkeys in drug tests

Monkeys were used to test an asthma drug. They endured the following symptoms: liquid faeces; redness of the face, lips, feet and hands; swollen penises and scrota; a loss of body tone; body tremors; quiet and hunched appearance; low heart rate and abdominal and umbilical hernias. Government officials rate such experiments as “moderate”.

The type of monkey used has been described as the most misleading laboratory animal model for the study of toxic effects on the human heart.

Experiment in a UK laboratory.



now used in treatment of breast cancer, despite having caused cancer in rat studies.

- Aspirin – causes birth defects in cats, but not in people.
- Cancer drug – 6-azauridine can be used in humans for long periods, but small doses can kill dogs in a few days.

Furthermore animal test results can delay medical progress – the introduction of blood transfusions was delayed over 200 years because of misleading animal data; the introduction of corneal transplants was delayed by 90 years. And many drugs have been passed as safe in animals, only to harm or kill people.

What's the alternative?

Despite what those who support animal experiments may tell you, most medical and scientific research in this country does not involve animals, and we can have better science and medicine without using animals. The NAVS





funds a range on non-animal research, as described overleaf.

In fact some scientists have now conceded that the TGN1412 disaster could have been averted if the kind of alternative that we suggest, microdosing, had been used. This involves the use of Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) equipment which allows accurate

analysis of the effects of tiny quantities of a drug. Ultra-low, safe, doses can be given to volunteers. However, when we discussed this with scientists and Government officials in 2003, we discovered that there was only one AMS system being used in the UK for this, whereas countries like Japan had many.

Progress without animal tests.

There are many examples of significant medical advances without animals—

- Drugs: beta blockers for blood pressure; digitalis for heart failure; morphine as a pain killer; nitrite drugs



Rats choke on paint

Rats were stuffed in tubes and forced to

breathe paint. Within three hours half of the animals had already choked to death so the test had to be stopped. The survivors were comatose. The test was intended to be non-lethal. A painful and inconclusive test for yet another tin of paint. No-one is allowed to know what went wrong.

for angina; quinine for malaria; active part of aspirin.

- Surgery: removal of appendix, bladder stones, cataracts, the ovaries for tumours; repair of heart aneurysm; and other techniques.
- The study of people, their environment and lifestyle showed the link between smoking and cancer, and the causes of heart disease.

Are animal tests strictly regulated?

Sadly, investigations for by the NAVS inside UK laboratories have shown that guidelines for the care of laboratory animals are routinely ignored, with little or no penalty. And the Animal Welfare Bill which is going to raise the standards of care for many animals in the UK will specifically exclude laboratory animals.

Following an exposé by the NAVS last year, the Home Office conceded that it does not scrutinise individual tests. Testing companies are issued licences for a *group* of chemicals. The individual tests that they conduct on animals for products within that group are not scrutinised. The information belongs to the company and the authorities do not have access to it, and they cannot answer any questions about the conduct of particular experiments or the suffering involved. Details of animal experiments are excluded from the Freedom of Information Act.

Do Lab animals suffer?

Laboratory animals suffer terribly at every stage of their lives. Most live in overcrowded, factory-farm type conditions. Experiment licences permit the infliction of pain, suffering, and harm.

**Animal Experiments:
Unreliable. Unethical. Unnecessary.**



We want scientific progress. We don't want animal experiments.

People who are opposed to animal experiments are not opposed to medical progress – quite the opposite. The Lord Dowding Fund, a department of the NAVS, awards grants of

over £300,000 a year to scientists conducting non-animal scientific and medical research, e.g:-

- We fund a sophisticated scanning facility at Aston University where patients' brain functions can be examined to help in a range of neurological diseases.
- We developed a method to enable surgeons to practice microsurgery.
- We have been involved in the development of many human cell and tissue culture techniques, including developing new ways of studying cancer.
- A model tooth cavity developed with our support became a British Standard Test for the toxicity of dental fillings. Previously ferrets had holes drilled in their teeth in painful experiments.
- The computer simulations we developed for use in teaching pharmacology saved the lives of tens of thousands of animals in the UK every year and are now being taken up worldwide.

As well as the immense suffering it causes, we believe animal experimentation is holding up scientific progress. It's time for a change to something more intelligent and sophisticated.

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towards our
work

**National Anti-Vivisection Society,
Freepost SW 1 457,
London,
W1 2 9BR.**

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Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS using a ball point pen and return by post.

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We are sometimes asked by similar organisations if they may write to our supporters. We would allow this only if the organisation is reputable. This allows us to raise funds for our work. However, if you DO NOT wish your name to be included, please tick here.

Please send a donation to help lab animals (cheque, PO, Credit/Debit Card)

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Every year, an estimated 100 million animals suffer and die in experiments in the world's laboratories. For each recorded use of an animal, a further two to three animals have been killed after a miserable short life, simply because they are surplus to requirements. However, the fundamental flaw of animal research is that each species responds differently to substances, making animal tests unreliable as a way to predict effects in humans.

April 24th is World Lab Animal Day.

Founded by the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS), World Lab Animal Day falls on April 24th every year and is recognised by the United Nations. All over the world people will be calling for an end to animal experimentation, and for the introduction of sophisticated non-animal research techniques. Join them.

You can make a difference

- Join the NAVS – use the form with this leaflet.
- Pass this leaflet on to a friend and order more to distribute.
- On World Lab Animal Day wear one of our special padlock badges, symbolising the campaign to unlock the labs.
- Help us stop EU chemical tests on millions of animals.



National Anti-Vivisection Society,
Freepost SW 1457, London, W12 9BR, UK.
Tel. +44 (0)20 8846 9777 email: Info@navs.org.uk
www.navs.org.uk

**Animals
are
burnt,
blinded,
mutilated,
poisoned,
starved,
in tests
that can
never be
trusted.**

**Join us
and help
stop the
torture.**