World Day for Laboratory Animals

HELP STOP Britain’s shocking monkey business

Find out how you can help
The supply of monkeys for experiments in the UK has been exposed by the NAVS. Monkeys are snatched from the wild for factory farms; newborn babies are torn screaming from their mothers; frightened infants are pinned down and tattooed; monkeys are wrenched from cages by the tail or netted and slammed on to the concrete floor.

Packed in boxes, the monkeys are flown to labs across the world – the UK uses more monkeys than any other EU country. Here, monkeys are strapped into chairs and injected or force fed test substances. Others have bolts and electrodes implanted into their brains.

Seven years after the European Parliament issued a ‘Declaration’ calling for a timetable to phase out primate experiments, the suffering continues. Even measures to stop dealers tearing animals from the wild are delayed.

Animals react differently to substances, including drugs, so animal safety tests cannot accurately predict what will happen in humans. Test drug TGN1412 caused near-fatal reactions in human volunteers, yet doses given to monkeys 500 times higher did not produce such side effects.

There are alternatives: The TGN1412 drug trial disaster could have been avoided using a technique known as ‘micro-dosing’ with spectrometry analysis. We can have safe medicines without animal suffering. Advanced methods are replacing the use of animals, and scientists are finding that these are quicker, cheaper and more reliable. But animals need your help to bring about change.