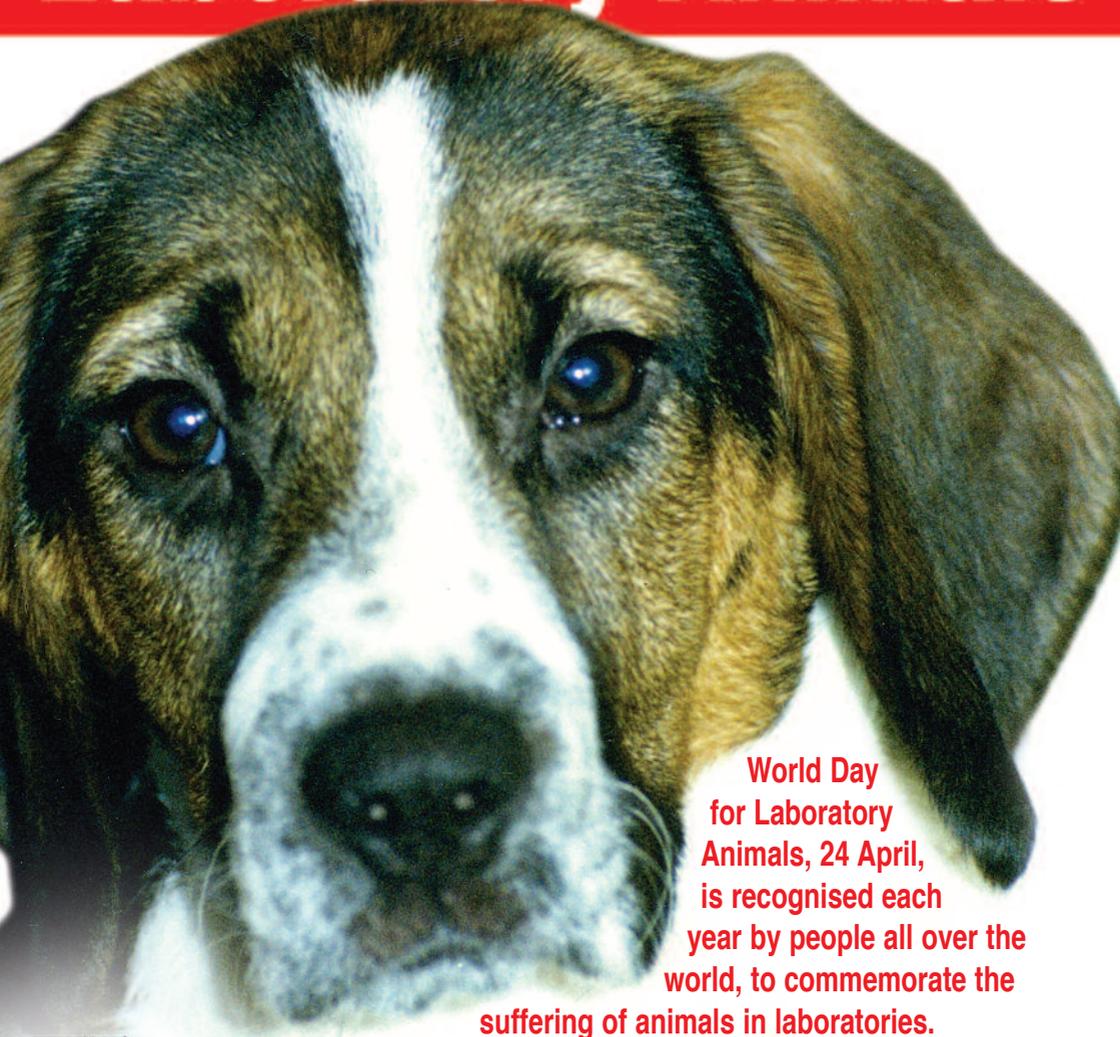


# World Day for Laboratory Animals



World Day  
for Laboratory  
Animals, 24 April,  
is recognised each  
year by people all over the  
world, to commemorate the  
suffering of animals in laboratories.

Millions of animals suffer and die each year, in experiments that cannot be trusted because of differences between humans and other species. You have the power to change this. There are better ways to carry out research. Help us to end the suffering.



**Animal experiments: unreliable, unethical, unnecessary.**

It is sometimes claimed that animal experiments are essential to medical progress, but the fundamental problem of animal research is that each species responds differently to drugs and other substances. What could be poisonous for you and me, could be eaten by an animal without damaging effects.

In addition to these natural differences, is the effect of being in a laboratory. It is known that laboratory animals experience fear and distress, which causes changes in their biochemistry, and that can also affect the outcome of the tests.

As a result of these multiple factors, drugs that have tested as safe in animal tests have gone on to injure people.

Animal research means that animals like beautiful and gentle, sensitive Elisa, a macaque monkey, was torn from her family and brought to London, where she was placed in a cage on her own. Bolts and electrodes were cemented into her brain so that when she was forced to perform tricks for food, recordings could be made of her brain. She was then killed. In another laboratory, monkeys were so distressed that they bit off their own fingers. Such experiments have been funded for decades – but it doesn't have to be like this.

Already, advanced technologies involving sophisticated analytical and statistical methods are replacing the use of living animals. And scientists are finding that these advanced methods are quicker, cheaper and more reliable. They are the true cutting edge of scientific development. More could be learned by scanning the brains of human volunteers, than the torture and killing of Elisa.

**So we can have safe medicines without animal suffering.**

You can make a difference by choosing not to buy products that have been tested on animals. You can make a difference by telling everyone you know, that there is another way. You can raise funds to support non-animal scientific and medical research – over the years, we have funded scientists researching cancer, Parkinson's, kidney research, brain damage and much more.

The UK Government has made a commitment to end the testing of household products on animals – encourage them by ensuring that you only buy household products, cosmetics and other products that have not been tested on animals.

Call us, or see our website, for how you can avoid being part of the suffering by choosing what to buy: [labanimalweek.org](http://labanimalweek.org)



## Species differences

Animals of different species react differently to drugs and toxins, so testing on them does not accurately predict what will happen in humans. For example:

- **Test drug TGN1412** caused near-fatal reactions in human volunteers, yet the drug had been given to lab monkeys at doses 500 times higher, without such side effects.
- **Fialuridine**, a vaccine for hepatitis B caused the deaths of 5 people and serious illness in others even though it was tested on dogs, rats and monkeys.
- **Tamoxifen**, the breast cancer drug, was designed as a contraceptive. Although it acts this way in rats, it had the opposite effect in humans. Now used to treat breast cancer, it has caused cancer in rats in certain studies.
- **Herpes B** causes lesions in monkeys, but they may carry the virus without suffering the disease itself. Sadly in humans, although the disease is rare, it is nearly always fatal.

## Medical progress without animals

Much medical progress has been made by studying humans. In some cases, animal experiments have produced misleading information. Here are some examples of progress without animal use:

- **Anaesthetics** – introduction of chloroform, ether, nitrous oxide, and cocaine.
- **Studies of people** – causes of heart disease, link between cancer and smoking.
- **Drugs** – introduction of beta blockers for blood pressure; digitalis for heart failure; morphine as a pain killer; nitrite drugs for angina; quinine for malaria; aspirin.
- **Surgical procedures** – removal of the appendix; removal of bladder stones; repair of cardiac aneurysm; removal of cataracts; removal of gall stones; repair of inguinal hernia; removal of the ovaries for tumours.
- Some techniques, like blood transfusions and corneal transplants, were delayed because of misleading animal test results.

