

Submission To

The National Animal Welfare Bill  
Animals Used For Research  
Ms Maureen Weeks,  
Committee Secretary,  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs  
and Transport Committee  
The Senate,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600

### Introduction.

I became interested in animal welfare in my youth while I was recovering from a car accident and saw on television coverage of a pitiful terrified fox terrier dog being slowly and painfully put to death by the then notorious Lethanair Decompression Chamber in use at the Melbourne Lost Dogs' Home.

Fortunately this cheap, cruel method of killing unwanted animals was banned when the Labor Government came into power.

For me it was a horrible revelation that animals can legally have pain inflicted upon them if the end is said to justify the means argument holds up.

I would like to express to the Committee my thoughts on the obvious inability of Australian researchers to embrace the grand breaking research that has the potential to almost replace every animal held for inspection.

## Laboratory Animal Industry, 1970's:

Back in the 1970's Richard Ryder, a clinical psychologist trained in Britain and U.S.A. wrote a book, Victims of Science. His research found that 100 million animals died every year in the world's laboratories, many in excruciating agony. Some 34 million were used in the American pharmaceutical industry.

One test involved force feeding dogs cosmetics until their organs ruptured. The eyes of kittens were shut to study responses to a permanently dark world.

Rabbits screaming when shampoo was put into their eyes.

Dogs and cats put on hot plates to test the effect of pain, poor animals danced and tried to blow on their searing feet.

Beagles force fed weed killers, only after days of agony did they die.

Some animals put into vice like contraptions kept immobilised until they went mad.

Holes were drilled into the root canals of dogs' teeth to see how they handled the pain & eating. Monkeys held in restraining devices, given electric shocks every 20 minutes. In 23 days most were dead of ulcers brought on by nervous tension.

Experiments on dolphins that resulted in some suicide.

Wild monkeys were caught, tails amputated, their canines extracted. Effects of this

deprivation studied.

Rats put into a tank of water to see how long it took them to drown.

Animals exposed to hard rock music, loud noises for hours and days to study physiological changes.

Electric shock treatments turned mothers against their offspring.

Animals subjected to lethal gas and bacteriological injection and given massive doses of syphilis to study effects.

In Britain 14 inspectors supervised the killing of five million animals per year. Richard Ryder argued that most experiments were unnecessary. He quoted the then known alternatives.

Testing the impact of crashes on dummies or instruments more effective than live animals.

organ or cell culture more meaningful than experiments on rats, dogs and kittens.

Drugs and vaccines can be truly tested on the culture.

Richard Ryder said it was primitive and backward to keep experimenting with animals. To bring about change, see that was needed was political, commercial, legal or moral incentives. see enclosure.

## Laboratory Animal Industry 2005

Thirty five years have passed since Richard Ryder's report. In June 2005 a report in *The Age* by Richard Baber states that an animal experiment is done in Victoria every 69 seconds! In 2003 488,608 animals were used in experiment. Animals are still involved in seemingly painful and stressful experiments.

A group of macaque monkeys, some only days old had their spinal cords cut by Melbourne University researchers before being made to perform tasks to examine their hand dexterity. Brain surgery performed on monkeys with experimentally induced Parkinson's disease at Prince of Wales Medical Institute, Sydney. Monkeys injected with H1N1 swine vaccines tested on them at Melbourne University.

Electrophysiological experiments on macaque monkeys.

Surgical scraping under local anaesthetic of the eyeballs of rabbits to test antibiotics.

Melbourne Centre for Eye Research

Britant acids being injected into the eyes of hatching chicks to test a contact lens.

Tohoku University.

Research at CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory at Geelong involves animals being subjected to "lethality" tests, given infections and tumours without pain alleviation and subjected to "environmental deprivation for

extended periods.

Harvesting animal parts for possible genetic manipulation.

Research categories permit electric shocks for "inducing stress", burnings or scalding" and "infliction of physical trauma" to simulate human injury.

Also reported in the Age was National Health and Medical Research Council animal ethics chairwoman Elizabeth Grant's statement that some researchers had become "complacent" about considering alternatives to animals and that Australian scientists had not tried as hard as they should to find alternatives to animal testing.

Also concerned is R. S. P. C. of National President Dr. Hugh Wirth see enclosure.

If compared to the list of animal experiment quoted by Richard Ryder, this up to date Australian one hardly differs yet nearly 35 years have passed, millions of animals have suffered and died yet during that time span we have seen even more advances made in In Vitro research in the use of tissue, organ and cell cultures derived from humans (often after death) there is no inter-species variation, are cheaper and more humane.

## Humane Alternatives:

Ames Test uses bacteria to test for mutagenicity and the use of human placentas to study a variety of processes.

Computer Modelling can screen thousands of chemicals.

Computer Modelling means that information can be obtained through comprehensive medical databases rather than having to repeat experiments.

Epidemiology the study of human populations and the direct observation of disease progression so that preventive measures can be taken.

Autopsies. Back in the 18th century autopsies provided a huge amount of knowledge about the human body and disproved much that was learned previously through animal experiments.

## Emerging Technologies:

Genomics the study of DNA

Proteomics Analysis of expression, function and interactions of proteins expressed by genetic material.

Nanotechnology science of assembling material one atom at a time.

Pharmacogenomics study of gene variations in populations and response to a drug.

Phage Display a method of quickly evaluating a huge range of antibodies.

and production of large quantities of selected ones. The interaction between virus and bacteria produce antibodies quicker than traditional animal method.

Human Genome Project will lead to a far greater understanding of hereditary diseases and genetic disorders and the prospect of cures. Genomics based medicine is the ability to target only the disease causing cells and will have minimal side effects.

## National Register for Animals used in Scientific Research

I strongly support Senator Andrew Bartlett's call for a National register for animals used in research.

Back in November 2001 *Animals Today* published frightening statistics of the rising numbers of animals used in Research. It was stated that 5.3 million animals were used each year for research, an increase of 87% over the 3.1 million reported in a study in 1993. There was a call then for a National register see enclosure



## Examination of Current Inspection Regimes particularly in regard to Scientific Institutions.

This rather grey area re adequate time given to inspecting how animals are affected by experiments, particularly those involving no pain relief, chemical testing etc and the cage sizes and (we trust) exercise facilities has always worried me.

It's that long ago in Western Australia, the RSPCA had to euthanize 31 baboons and monkeys that were going mad due to living in cramped cages and trauma resulting from experiments.

Dogs also were kept in poor housing with no exercise facilities.

In 1994 in an Advertiser report Ms. Judith Hughes a member of animal ethics panel at Adelaide University said 100,000 animals were used for research in laboratories in S.A. each year. Ms. Hughes said that many tests were unnecessary and demanded their number be substantially reduced.

Some tests conducted in S.A. laboratories included.

Removal or blocking organs to examine their function relative to rest of body

Damaging animals' backbones to assess the disabling effect.

Injecting fluids to create cancerous tumours

and arthritis.

Posing fish to determine the effects of the toxicity levels in waterways have on marine life. Ms Hughes claimed that some animals were subjected to chronic pain with a lot of distress arising from their housing conditions. Rabbits undergoing blood tests were shut in containers which allowed no room to exercise for up to six months!

Sheep kept a week in containers so small that it was not possible for them to turn around while R.S.P.C.A. rep. Col. Davies didn't think that the use of 100,000 animals was excessive. Ms Hugh's assessment of laboratories' attitude to their animals was supported in part by Dr. Gary Scroop who described the attitude of many of his colleagues around Australia as reactionary.

Dr. Scroop who in the late 1980's phased out the use of animals in his Physiology teaching sessions said that there was an entrenched view among many researchers that techniques must be demonstrated using animals.

A report in the Eastern Courier May 2000 stated that by 1998 (latest figures) animal use in S.A. had risen to 113,445 of which 74,620 underwent relatively minor procedures while 43,825 underwent operations often without anaesthesia or were

given infection or induced with tumors or kept in isolated environments for "extended periods"

Some animals were given lethal doses of chemicals or biological agents.

Animal rights campaigners claimed that animal ethics committees approved of virtually every project, including cutting off lizard's toes to distinguish them from other lizards being tested.

Wallabies being induced with painful curvature of the spine and in separate experiments forced to hop on treadmills.

I haven't seen any more reports printed in S.B. re animal experiments or rise in numbers used. Minister Hill told me that current statistics are not yet available.

I am gravely concerned about the policing role played by the animal ethics committees who in the law of averages, could not possibly cope with the demands put upon them when they try to assess all of these experimental projects that are supposed to be reviewed each year.

The concern of animal use in laboratories is not limited to the animal welfare lobby or concerned citizens.

In 2004, in the British Medical Journal

a survey commissioned by Europeans for Medical Advancement found that more than 80% of physicians in general practice in Europe, believed that animal tests are worthless and even dangerous to their patients.

I have read where it is estimated that about 85% of animal research is discarded because it was of any use to anyone human or animal!

I suppose that it does sustain the vivisection industry but there must be a time when all governments say to their scientists there are more appealing and accurate ways to participate in health and safety initiatives other than torturing and killing animals!

## Conclusion

I thank you for the opportunity to express my views and trust that more emphasis is put on alternatives to animal tests and that the Federal Government will seriously consider funding alternative research and through government paid advertising, promote healthy lifestyles that will prevent many diseases and mental problems from developing thus clearing away the backlog that builds up

Researchers say tests on animals are essential to advance human medicine, however, an Age investigation shows an experiment is done every 69 seconds in Vict

# Sacrificed for science



**THE AGE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION**

**BAKER** are being used in medical and experiments — one of 1000 piglets is above the long list of 448,000 animals that, in 1997, 30 per cent of animals in Victoria were or at the end of their lives were put to death in non-invasive studies.

**INSIDE THE SECRET WORLD OF ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS** "Immediately following a left testicular section, the monkey was anaesthetised on the side of his head, was unable to sit up and both left limbs were flexed. Within one week, the animal sat up and was able to grasp the mesh of the cage with the left hand sufficient to sustain balance."

done by the MSU staff. Subjects in test facilities at Melbourne's Central In Vitro Research.

Researchers derive the standard use of animals to create medicines, although it is essential for new cures in human medicine. "There is a clear link between animal research and human medicine or human benefit," CSIRO animal welfare spokesman Dr. Chris Frutkin said.

Government Health research on radiation by Steve Kelly, and animal research was performed for developing drugs to help farmers. Documents obtained by The Age under the Freedom of Information Act show research at the CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong involves animals being subjected to "lethality" tests, given poisons in acute toxicity tests, given infections and tumours, will not

path alterations, and subjected to environmental deprivation to escaped petrels. Other CSIRO research involves "harvesting" of animal parts for possible genetic manipulation to make them compatible with humans.

The documents also show research strategies that permit electric shocks for inducing stress, burning or scalding and "injection" of physical irritants to stimulate forearm injury.

No animals were suspended for these procedures in the floor items discussed by the Age.

The special inquiry due to report by November follows the weeks' introduction of a private members' bill by Democrats Senator and animal activist Andrew Bartlett.

Senator Bartlett told The Age that 400 roughly was being done in Australia to produce 100 million of animals tested in experiments. "I think a lot of it is daily but many more than in services," he said. "The inquiry will quantify the need for an authorisation for animals used in scientific research."

We hope the inquiry will also examine the adequacy of extreme inspection regimes with particular regard to scientific institutions.

The apparent use of animal use ranges despite the National Health and Medical Research Council's code of practice. Experiments referred to as the "five" which animals researchers to reduce, replace and refine treatment of animals.

Victoria Agriculture Minister Rob Carrivick has asked his central welfare advisory committee to investigate appropriateness of the RSPCA national guidelines. Health Minister said he was concerned by the increasing use of animals in research in Victoria. "We've heavy rules, but we know that Dr. Vinn's side are opposed to the use of live animals in research. However, we're not sure that's the case."



**HOW MANY?**  
 Animal use in Victoria  
 1997 224,298 2001 441,258  
 1996 362,732 2002 439,133  
 1999 479,387 2003 468,849  
 2000 649,663 2004 N/A

**PURPOSE TYPES OF PROCEDURES**  
 25% or more in conscious interventions  
 17% in various challenges  
 15% in minor procedures  
 15% in observational research

**WHO DOES EXPERIMENTS**  
 Primate research is carried out by:  
 Monash University  
 Melbourne University  
 CSIRO  
 Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney

**TYPES USED**  
 283,335 mice  
 37,567 dogs  
 11,810 guinea pigs  
 2763 rabbits  
 83 primates

**PIGLET** - A research monkey. Separate photos of a monkey's hand reaching for a lever and grasping it to obtain a reward. Melbourne University researchers partially covered the 20m to test how quickly the monkey would recover the use of its hand.

team, Ms Lubis said.  
 And businessman Ron Bakir, who has paid various costs for Corby — and been accused of demanding \$500,000 for his

Hamoyani room...  
 pea, who joined the case to work on the appeal after Corby was convicted of drug smuggling.  
 "I am happy. At least I don't

...to increase the figures."  
 With AP  
 teen dragmiles NEWS 7

# Sacrificed for science, in the name of humanity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we understand that not all research has yet got to the point where it can be done without animal use.

He said recent changes to a national code of practice on animal use in scientific research had improved conditions for animals kept in laboratories.

Mrs Grant said strong scientific interest in genetic technologies was the reason animal experiments were increasing.

"We knew this was going to happen and we hope that once they get the genetic models they want it will reduce," she said.

In Mrs Grant's opinion, Australian scientists had not tried as

hard as they should to find alternatives to animal testing.

"I think it could improve and we are going to look at whether we need to have a harder look at the 3Rs and whether we could make it clearer about what other things they could do. I think people have become a bit complacent with the 3Rs," she said.

Across Australia, millions of animals have been used in experiments in the past five years by universities, hospitals, government laboratories and private research institutions.

Most animals were used in research attempting to improve human and animal health. Animals are crucial to research into killer human diseases and virus

viruses demonstrate the potential to transfer from animal to human hosts," he said. "An example is the Hendra virus that infected and killed a number of hoists in Queensland and led to the death of Mr Vic Rail, a horse trainer, and the infection of a number of other humans."

Dr Prideaux said pain and stress levels of experiments varied. There was a constant effort to minimise discomfort.

Dr Dodd, who has not practised animal research for at least two years, said animal research was justifiable when the aim was to "alleviate diseases and illnesses that are a burden on society". No animal research was done at Barwon Health.

NSW statistics for 2001-02 show that more than 20,000 animals were killed in regulatory product testing and more than 13,000 were subjected to experiments involving "major physiological challenges". A NSW Government report said major physiological challenges involved a "moderate or large degree of pain or distress, which is not quickly or effectively alleviated".

In Victoria in 2003, about 13 per cent of animals used in experiments were involved in physiological challenges.

Melbourne University's media office told *The Age* it was reluctant to let its staff talk about animal research for fear of reprisals from animal activists.

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# ANIMAL RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA - The numbers are still increasing

Keith Edwards reports on what the statistics tell us, and what they don't!

More than 5.8 million animals are used each year for research purposes in Australia according to the latest statistics published by state authorities (table 1). This represents an increase of 87% over the 3.1 million animals reported on in a similar study in 1998 (Animals Today Vol 6(1)). These figures are incomplete as Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory do not publish any such statistics.

The most commonly used animals are domestic fowl which accounted for more than 3 million animals. Second most common are fish with 1.5 million, although fish are not included in the statistics in Victoria. The numbers of both fish and poultry used each year vary extremely widely and if they are deducted from the figures, then the total number of animals used is 1.34 million. Other animals commonly used in Australia include mice (515,000), sheep (391,000), rats (111,000) and cattle (65,000).

NSW uses the bulk of the animals (86%) made up largely of domestic fowl and fish. If the latter two are excluded NSW still is the major user with 51% of the country's total use. Victoria is the second largest user.

## What do the figures mean?

Each state and territory has different legislation governing the use of animals for scientific purposes. The only unifying feature throughout Australia is the 'Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes' (the Code). An animal is defined by the Code as any live non-human vertebrate, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, and covers domestic animals, purpose-bred animals, livestock and wildlife. It should be noted that fish are not covered by all animal research legislation. The Code defines scientific purposes as 'all those activities performed to acquire, develop or demonstrate knowledge or techniques in any scientific discipline, including activities for the purposes of teaching, field trials, environmental studies, research, diagnosis, product testing, and the production of biological products'. Thus animal research activities vary immensely in terms of their impact on the animals ranging from relatively benign activities such as observation of free-living animals and the conduct of feeding trials, to activities with major adverse outcomes for the animals such as major surgical interventions and lethality testing.

Unfortunately, the way in which the data are collected and presented in most cases provide little insight into what is happening to the animals. The South Australian and Tasmanian data sets are most useful in this regard with procedures classified according to their impact on the animals. This approach goes a considerable way towards describing the animal welfare implications of varying forms of animal research.

## Is the use of animals increasing or decreasing?

Because of high variability in numbers of some species of animals (particularly fish and domestic fowl) used from year to year, any trends in animal use may be masked. However, when numbers of fish and fowl are deducted, the current number of animals (1.34 million) is still well up on the 1998 total of 885,000 animals.

The increase has occurred across most species with increases in the number of mice, rabbits, cats, dogs, sheep, cattle, pigs, horses, native mammals, primates, reptiles and amphibians. Only the numbers of rats, guinea pigs, and fish have decreased.

Many of the changes have been relatively small, especially in the area of laboratory animals suggesting the use of such animals is relatively stable over time. In contrast, both sheep and cattle use has more than doubled. A major increase in the number of native mammals being used has also occurred, especially in New South Wales.

A longer term perspective on trends is available if figures for mice usage in Victoria are studied. Mice provide a good insight into levels of animal research as they are the 'multi-purpose' research animal. Data since the early 1980s show little change in numbers of animals used despite the increasing reliance on transgenic mice and other purpose bred speciality lines of mice (figure 1).

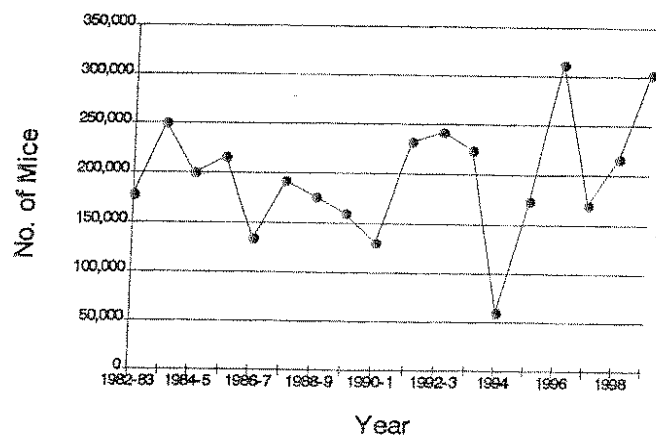


Figure 1  
The number of mice used for research in Victoria appears to have changed little since the early 1980s. The 1994 figure represents a period of six months when recording changed from a financial year basis to calendar year.

## Why bother with animal use statistics?

Under the present system, the statistics alone provide little more than gross indicators of the extent of animal use for research purposes. The lack of information regarding the impact on the animals is the greatest shortcoming of the available figures. This is compounded by the fact that Queensland and the two territories don't even provide any figures at all.

The users of animals must be accountable to the broader community. How can the community be satisfied with the way in which institutional ethics committees are working if there is not clear evidence that the numbers of animals being used for research are being minimised and that the impact on the animals is being reduced? Only the timely provision of accurate, consistent statistics can provide the answers.

## A national approach

It seems that at the national level, there is agreement to disagree on how to get some meaning and uniformity into

this matter and that each jurisdiction is going to continue to collect data according to its own definitions and criteria.

Because of this, it is now obvious that a decision must be made that the Code of Practice should mandate the collection and publication of a uniform set of statistics on the use of animals in research. The extension of a system for recording and presenting statistics similar to that used in South Australia and Tasmania is strongly supported. Its implementation by all states and territories is long overdue.

## What you can do

If your state collects statistics on animals used in research ask the relevant Department for a copy of the figures and provide feedback on what you see as the deficiencies of the reports. If your state or territory does not produce the statistics, write and request that they collect and publish meaningful data on animals used for research. ■

**Table 1 Animals used for research purposes in Australia**

Category of Animals	Victoria 1999 (1)	NSW 1998-99 (2)	SA 1999 (3)	Tasmania 1999-00 (4)	WA 1999 (5)	Total
<b>Laboratory Mammals</b>						
Mouse	301,186	158,185	18,832	1,993	35,322	515,518
Rat	38,422	43,189	15,200	1,643	13,243	111,697
Guinea Pig	10,091		1,040	8	777	11,916
Rabbit	3,402		1,183	24	413	5,022
Rabbit/Guinea pig/other rodents (6)		6,005				6,005
Other	2,630		325	276		3,231
<b>Domestic Mammals</b>						
Cat	313	2,405	40		127	2,885
Dog	656	3,284	25		526	4,491
<b>Stock Mammals</b>						
Sheep	34,944	339,634	12,141	1,995	2,830	391,544
Cattle	36,969	25,585	1,568	970	480	65,572
Pig	5,169	4,731	4,762		1,203	15,865
Horse, donkey or cross	798	6,541	60		407	7,806
Other	1,203	1,370	677		94	3,344
<b>Native Mammals</b>						
Native mammals	8,912	25,773	5,882	5,879	945	47,391
<b>Primates</b>						
Primates	94	334	33		20	481
<b>Birds</b>						
Domestic fowl	60,252	2,946,705	30,181	75	429	3,037,642
Other	22,286	15,313	7,566	4,518	7,380	57,063
Chick embryo		38,709			340	39,049
<b>Reptiles</b>						
Reptiles	1,153	12,504	3,493	813	3,421	21,384
<b>Aquatic Animals</b>						
Fish		1,410,174	3,185	18,120	24,501	1,455,980
Amphibian	5,619	8,821	5,797	551	6,946	27,734
Others	1,000		191	10		1,201
<b>Others</b>						
Others	4,420	157	636	467	1,139	6,819
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>539,519</b>	<b>5,049,419</b>	<b>112,817</b>	<b>37,342</b>	<b>100,543</b>	<b>5,839,640</b>

## References

- (1) Statistics of Animal Experimentation Victoria 1999 Bureau of Animal Welfare, Natural Resources and Environment
- (2) Animals Used by Species and Objectives 1998-99 (draft) New South Wales Animal Welfare Unit, NSW Agriculture
- (3) Animal Usage Report South Australia 1999 Animal Welfare Unit, Department for Environment and Heritage
- (4) Animal Research Statistics Tasmania Report No 4: 1999/2000 Dept of Primary Industries, Water and Environment
- (5) Annual Statistical Vivisection and Experiments Return 1999 Western Australia Health Dept of WA
- (6) The NSW records do not differentiate between rabbits and guinea pigs



The Advertiser 29/4/78

100,000 experiments

# Animal testing outcry

By ED RUSH

Revelations that up to 100,000 animals are subjected to experiments in South Australian laboratories each year has sparked a call for a dramatic reduction in testing.

Animals are inflected with arthritis and kidney failure, cancer, arthritis and kidney failure, while others are subjected to psychological tests it was claimed yesterday.

Ms Judith Hughes, a member of the ethics board which considers requests for animals by researchers at Adelaide University, described many tests as "unnecessary" and demanded their number be "substantially reduced".

"She said the reluctance of researchers to find alternatives to animal experimentation condemned thousands of native and domestic creatures to lives of pain and suffering. The amount of pain suffered varies widely," she said.

Some animals are killed, under anesthetic while others are subjected to painful procedures of chemotherapy.

Ms Hughes' comments coincide with those of visiting United States psychologists who say, unlike non-militants, are useless in preventing "pointless and painful experiments on animals".

Mr Don Barnes, the former principal investigator at Brooks Airbase's School of Aerospace Medicine, said Australian researchers "surrounded their experiments in secrecy and wasted millions of dollars of public money."

"Almost nothing is publicly known about how the money is spent and what happens to the animals," he said.

Some tests conducted in SA laboratories include:

**DIAMAZINE** - animals' backbones to assess their ability to resist cancer.

**REMOVING** or blocking organs to examine their function relative to the risks of the body.

**INFECTING** fluids to create cancerous tumours and arthritis.

**POISONING** fish to determine the effect the toxicity levels in waterways have on marine life.

Rabbits and pigs were commonly used in tests at institutions including Flinders University, the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Queensland Children's Hospital, the Women and Children's Hospital and the CPRC.

Although most animals were kept in cages, it was impossible to determine their welfare because the centralised animal-testing system.

Ms Hughes said rabbits undergoing block tests were sometimes shut in containers which allowed them no room to exercise for up to six months at a time.

"Sheep were also kept for up to a year at a time in crates which made it impossible for them to turn around. Unfortunately, there is a fair-weather approach by a lot of researchers which sees animals as being the 'port of call'," Ms Hughes said.

• PAGE 12: Bateup's view

Her claims were disputed by the RSECA representative on the ethics board Colonel Mike Barrie, who said the use of 100,000 animals a year was not excessive.

"I think the regulations are perfect and are followed closely by the laboratories," he said.

Ms Hughes said similar ethics laboratories attached to their animal subjects was supported, in part, by a grant from Adelaide University.

Dr Scroop, who in the late 1980s placed the use of animals in laboratory teaching sessions, said there was an entrenched view among many researchers that techniques must be demonstrated using animals.

Physiology teaching methods used in the past by Dr Scroop included massatising dogs, inserting tubes in their arteries and then killing them by injection.

Dr Scroop said he found that his students learnt as much by conducting non-injurious experiments — cleared by the university's ethics boards — as people.

• Continued Page 2



2



*Earthen Lovers  
May 2000*

## The New GUINEA PIGS

# 118,000 under the microscope

Andrew Faulkner details the extent of animal experimentation by Adelaide researchers:

Not all animal experiments are conducted on mice and guinea pigs - wallabies, koalas and small native marsupials also undergo often invasive operations in Adelaide's learning centres.

Cats, horses, bats, lizards, pigs, fat-tailed dunnarts, lizards, snakes, marmosets and native birds are also used for experiments, carried out in high security "animal houses" on university campuses and in government departments.

According to a State Government report, 118,445 animals were used for research in 1998 - the latest figures available.

Of these, 74,620 underwent relatively minor procedures, such as "minor environmental manipulation" or modifications to their diet.

The remaining 43,825 underwent operations - often without anaesthesia - or were given infections or induced with tumors or kept in isolated environments for "extended periods", the State Government report detailed.

Some animals were given lethal doses of chemicals or biological agents. The Animal Usage Report, prepared by the Department of Environment and Heritage, showed 36 koalas were operated on in 1998. They were listed in the "minor operative procedure with recovery"



column of the report. More than 100 Dasyurids - small marsupials such as quolls and dunnarts - underwent "minor conscious procedure" without anaesthesia.

Animal rights campaigners have condemned many of the experiments, accusing the learning centres - through their ethics committees - of approving virtually every project put up by researchers (see story opposite).

In the mid-1990s an Adelaide University scientist was criticised for cutting the tails off fat-tailed dunnarts. The trial was supposed to uncover data to counter obesity in humans.

- The animal rights activists claim:
  - wallabies have been induced with painful curvature of the spine conditions and, in separate experiments, forced to hop on treadmills;
  - mice have been given cancer to create antibodies in their blood, which is then removed (up to 20 per cent of their body weight) using metal tubes or syringes while the mice are conscious; X
  - pure doses of the drug Ecstasy has been injected into rats to see if their temperature rises, and;
  - lizards' toes have been cut off to distinguish

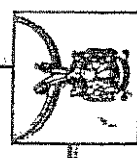
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# STORM OVER LACK OF CARE FOR LAB ANIMALS AT WA UNIVERSITY

Improve experimental animals' <sup>must</sup> welfare or lose funds, UWA told <sup>be had</sup>

Because of sub-standard animal housing facilities, the University of WA risked losing substantial medical research funds in 1994.

According to reports in the Western Australian newspaper *Sunday Times* in December last year, the threat came after the National Health and Medical Research Council's animal welfare committee inspected the university's experimental animals facilities and said that they did not satisfy the requirements of the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.

The NHMRC's report complained that there was "poor quality housing for dogs - humid, cramped, with no opportunity for the animals to leave the facility even on a lead, even though they are kept for very long periods."

The poor housing conditions led to 31 baboons and monkeys at the university's Biological Sciences Animal Unit being destroyed in 1992 on RSPCA orders because they had been kept in badly ventilated, cramped cages. They were so severely stressed by experiments and their living conditions some were going mad. Subsequently, \$200,000 was allocated to improve the facility.

Replying to criticisms, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Fay Gale,

admitted that some facilities were not up to standard, but pointed out that \$2 million had been allocated to improve conditions, and she said that she had appointed a professor of philosophy to head the university's animal experimentation committee.

The University of WA's grant from NHMRC in 1993 was \$4.5 million and it expects to be allocated \$5 million in 1994.

In 1992, 16,499 animals were used for vivisection in Western Australia. Undergraduate use of animals is not included in this figure and is believed to greatly exceed this number.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to the University of WA and express your concerns about the treatment of animals used for vivisection. Encourage them to upgrade the facilities without delay, and urge that they make every effort to reduce the number of animals used both by researchers and undergraduates.

Write to:  
Professor Fay Gale  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Western Australia  
NEDLANDS  
WA 6009

# 100 MILLION ANIMALS DIE

1970<sup>5</sup>

## SPECIAL BULLETIN



People who are actively involved in the welfare of animals are often labelled "nuts" or "cranks." Especially those who are uptight about scientific experiments being performed on animals - vivisection and all that.

It seems safe to say that most people don't think very often, if at all, about experiments on animals. When they do, most would likely deplore the necessity, but feel that after all, better an animal than a human. And anyway, it's a worthy cause if one animal suffers slightly in order to advance medical and scientific knowledge. Apart from being a debatable concept, that view may be quite erroneous.

Richard Dyer, 35, is a clinical psychologist, trained in Britain and the U.S., who accepted without question the thesis that experimentation on animals was not only justifiable, but essential. He no longer thinks so. After being involved in such work, he is convinced most experimentation is unnecessary and not done for medical purposes anyway. It simply constitutes unbelievable cruelty.

He has written a powerful book on the subject: *Victims of Science* (Burns and MacEachern; \$14.95) which is guaranteed to make the hardest of stomachs queasy. It should be read as widely as possible. "I believe the time has come to extend our respect for others to include the other species," he writes. "If we accept that it is wrong to cause suffering to innocent humans then by logical extension it is also wrong to do this to non-humans." He sees the next great step in man's moral evolution as being the recognition of rights and interest of the animal kingdom.

### All guilty

His well-documented research finds all countries guilty. Among the findings are:

\* 100 million animals die every year in the world's laboratories - many in excruciating agony.

\* Over 34 million animals are used by the American pharmaceutical industry alone - testing the effects of cosmetics on skin; force-feeding cosmetics to dogs until their organs are ruptured. This, because kids might eat the stuff.

\* The eyes of kittens sewn shut in order to study their response to a permanently dark world.

\* When shampoo was put in the eyes of rabbits at Britain's Huntingdon Research Centre the pain was so intense that some of the rabbits actually screamed.

\* To test the effect of pain, dogs and cats and other animals were put on hot plates; the wretched creatures danced and tried to blow on their searing feet.

\* Beagles were forced-fed weed killer and after days of agony they died. Among other things, their blood turned a chocolate brown color.

\* Some animals were put in vice-like contraptions, or straightjackets, to keep them immobilised, or paralysed, for days until they went mad.

\* Holes were drilled into the root canals of dog's teeth to see how they handled the pain and eating.

\* Monkeys were held in restraining devices and given electric shocks every 20 minutes. In 23 days most were dead - of ulcers brought on by nervous tension.

\* Experiments on dolphins, whose intelligence may be greater than humans, resulted in such frustration and anguish that the dolphins actually committed suicide.

PETER  
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\* Wild monkeys were caught and their tails amputated, their canine teeth extracted and the effects of this deprivation studied.

\* Rats were put in a tank of water to see how long it took them to drown. Some gave up immediately and drowned out of "hopelessness", while others swam as long as 60 hours before sinking.

\* Animals rotated in drums to keep them awake and the effects of sleeplessness studied. Some lasted 30 days without sleep before dying.

\* Animals exposed to hard rock music and loud noises for hours and days, to study the physiological changes.

\* Electric shock is a favorite experiment on a variety of animals, and has resulted in turning mothers against their offspring.

\* Animals are routinely put through crashes, while others are subjected to lethal gases and bacteriological infection, and even given massive doses of syphilis to study effects.

\* The few countries that have legislation against cruelty usually have too few inspectors. In Britain 14 inspectors supervise the killing of five million animals per year.

\* Scientists who experiment on animals not only become hardened to their grisly task, but actually tend to start enjoying inflicting pain. That is, sadism is encouraged and developed.

### It's unnecessary

Ryder argues that most experimentation on animals is unnecessary. He pleads for alternatives. He says for testing the impact of crashes, etc. dummies or instruments are more effective than live animals. He says organ or cell cultures are more meaningful in experiments than rats or kittens or dogs. Drugs and vaccines can be more truly tested on the cultures.

Ryder says it is primitive and backward to keep experimenting with animals, as has been done for years, rather than develop the full potential of new techniques and technologies. Within half a lifetime man has learned to fly and has reached the moon. In the matter of alternatives to laboratory animals we are at the beginning but the potential is surely there - all that is needed is the political, commercial, legal or moral incentive. If scientists cannot mend their morals then laws may have to provide that final impetus to oblige experimenters to develop humane methods - necessity has, after all, so often found itself pregnant with invention.

This is a book that should be required reading for politicians, law-makers and humanitarians.