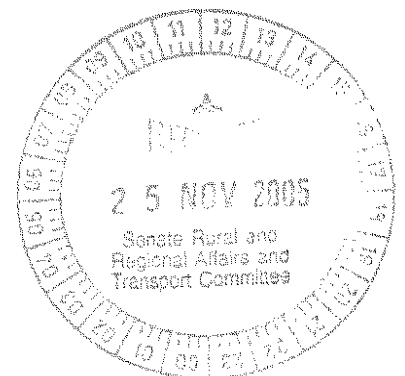
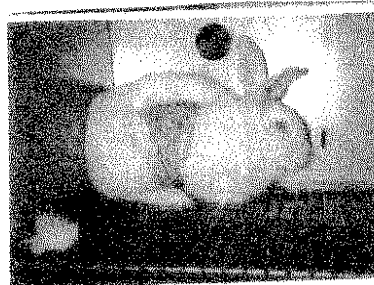
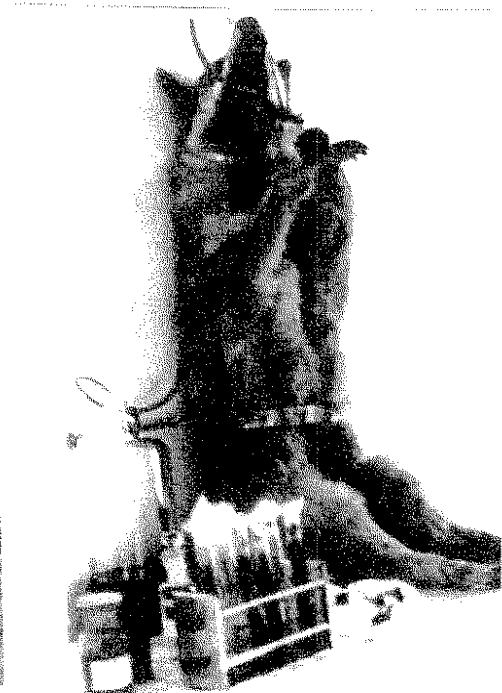


JANET ALLAN  
SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF ANDREW BARTLETT'S  
CALL FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF ALL  
LABORATORY ANIMALS USED IN AUSTRALIA



C E & J P ALLAN  
2 Balaklava Road  
MALLALA SA 5502  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

20 November 2005

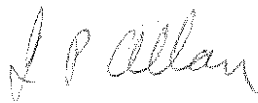
Maureen Weeks  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs & Transport  
Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

SUPPORT OF  
**SUBMISSION IN ~~RESPONSE TO~~ ANDREW  
BARTLETT'S CALL FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF  
ALL LABORATORY ANIMALS USED**

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

I have enclosed the article from "The Age" which prompted me  
to write.

Yours faithfully



JANET ALLAN Dip.T.(Com)

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are essential to advance human medicine.  
 experiment is done every 69 seconds in Victoria.

# 1 for science



## HOW MANY?

Annual use in Victoria	2001	2002	2003	2004
Animals	424,308	441,258	439,132	434,568
Procedures	362,762	391,132	394,568	381,104

## PURPOSE TYPES OF PROCEDURES

25% in animal interventions	13% in intensive physiological challenges
17% in serious health problems	7% in studies that had death as an end point
15% in major physiological challenges	6% in major surgery
15% in basic clinical research	2% in major surgery

## TYPES USED

- 283,336 mice
- 37,587 rats
- 11,610 guinea pigs
- 2763 rabbits
- 83 primates

## WHO DOES EXPERIMENTS

- Primate research is carried out by:
- Melbourne University
  - Monash University
  - CSIRO
  - Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney

RIGHT: A macaque monkey. ABOVE: Separate photos of a macaque's hand reaching for a lever and grasping it to obtain a reward. Melbourne University researchers partially covered the arm to test how quickly the monkey would recover the use of its hand.

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Researchers say tests on animal  
However, an Age investigation shows a

# Sacrificed

By RICHARD BAKER

ANIMALS are being used increasingly in medical and scientific experiments — one every 69 seconds in Victoria — despite a national code of practice requiring researchers to reduce their use.

Latest available figures show 483,806 animals — 1,339 a day or more than 55 an hour — were used in experiments in Victoria in 2003. This is above the long-term average of 450,000 and significantly higher than the 1997 figure of 324,901.

Nearly 75 per cent of animals used in 2003 in Victoria were killed during or at the end of research.

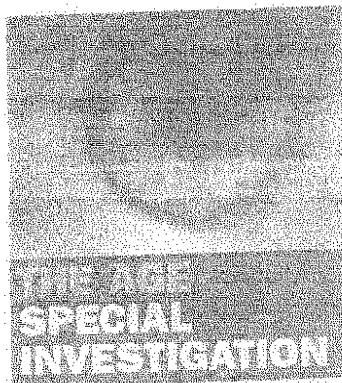
About 15 per cent were involved in non-invasive observational studies.

Animal use in research will come under fresh scrutiny after the Senate this week decided to launch an inquiry into animal welfare laws and as National Health and Medical Research Council animal ethics chairwoman Elizabeth Cunniff told *The Age* that some researchers had become "complacent" about considering alternatives to animals.

An *Age* investigation has found that 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.

Other recent experiments in Australia include:

- Brain surgery performed on monkeys with experimentally induced Parkinson's disease at the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute in Sydney.
- Monkeys, infected with a simian form of HIV, having vaccines tested on them at Melbourne University.
- Electrophysiological experiments on macaque monkeys.
- Surgical scraping, under a local anaesthetic, of the eyeballs of



## INSIDE THE SECRET WORLD OF ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS

"Investigator following a left cervical spine lesion, the monkey was paralysed on the side of the lesion, was unable to sit up and both left limbs were flaccid. 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."

### UNDER THE KNIFE INSIGHT 1

rabbits to test antibiotics at Melbourne's Centre for Eye Research.

... human eye... to test a contact lens at La Trobe University.

Researchers defend the continued use of animals in experiments, arguing that it is essential for advancements in human medicine. "There is a clear link between animal research and human medicine or human benefit," CSIRO animal welfare spokesman Dr Chris Pridemore said.

Barwon Health research coordinator Dr Cecilia Doid said animal research was essential for developing drugs to help humans.

Documents obtained by *The Age* under the Freedom of Information Act show research at the CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory at Geelong involves animals being subjected to "lethality" tests; given poisons in "acute toxicity tests"; given infections and tumours "without

pain alleviation"; and subjected to "environmental deprivation for extended periods". Other CSIRO research involves "harvesting" of animal parts for possible genetic manipulation to make them compatible with humans.

The documents also show research categories that permit electric shocks for "inducing stress"; "burning or scalding" and "infliction of physical trauma" to simulate human injury.

No animals were subjected to those procedures in the documents obtained by *The Age*.

The Senate inquiry, due to report by November, follows this week's introduction of a private member's bill by Democrat senator and animal activist Andrew Bartlett.

Senator Bartlett told *The Age* that not enough was being done in Australia to reduce the number of animals used in experiments.

"I think a lot of it is really not much more than lip service," he said. "The major... the need for a national register for animals used in scientific research.

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

The apparent rise in animal use comes despite the National Health and Medical Research Council's code of practice — commonly referred to as the "3Rs" — which compels researchers to reduce, replace and refine their use of animals.

Victorian Agriculture Minister Bob Cameron has asked his animal welfare advisory committee to investigate application of the code in the state's laboratories.

RSPCA national president Hugh Wirth said he was concerned by the increasing use of animals in research in Victoria. "We've been quite stirred up about that," Dr Wirth said. "We are opposed to the use of live animals in research. However,



## **ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Research Foundation's 2003 report details many cruel and invasive experiments on cattle, pigs, mice, guinea pigs and marmosets.. For example, starving pregnant guinea pigs and depriving them of water, blocking off various tubes in the bodies of animals (the blocking off of any internal tubes causes excruciating pain), inducing tumours in animals, organ transplants and various chemical and surgical interventions causing damage to the reproductive organs of animals and to babies developing within their wombs

The Eastern Courier 17/5/2000 reported that the number of animals used in experiments annually in South Australia alone is in the hundreds of thousands and the number is rising. Recently, when Australian scientists were trying to get consent to do embryonic stem cell research I saw on the news a frog whose eyes they had gouged out and were presumably going to inject with stem cells to 'cure' the blindness. They also showed a poor little rat whose spine they had crushed and then injected with stem cells. They dropped it into a fish tank so the poor creature had to move its painful back legs or drown and it moved very feebly. It then turned out that they lied about the type of stem cells they used anyway. They weren't embryonic stem cells. They also showed a rat strapped in a restraint device. It was obviously fully conscious and they were performing major surgery on its back. This is what they are not even bothering to hide!

## GENERAL COMMENTS

Just recently (18/9/03) I videoed Catalyst showing rats with open festering wounds in heads, electrodes in heads, cameras strapped to backs, scientists playing with them like toys. Called them remote controlled rats. Said they were better off than the rest of the rats in laboratory. One rat had 60 electrodes in its brain. So what are they doing to the rest? This is what they put on TV and consider OK. The electrodes, by the way, are what they have done to the cats in the pictures I sent you. They are screwed to the sinus bones. Pus runs down into the sinuses and causes blindness and death if the experiments don't kill the animals first.

I am totally opposed to vivisection of all kinds on both ethical and scientific grounds and I am in very good company there.

I quote Dr Henry J Bigelow (Professor of Surgery at Harvard University)  
–There will come a time when the world will look back on vivisection, in the name of science, as they do now to burning at the stake in the name of religion.

And

Albert Einstein –It has become appallingly clear that our technology has surpassed our humanity.

And

Gandhi –The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

Vivisection is the blackest of all the black crimes that man is at present committing against God and His fair creation. It ill becomes us to invoke in our daily prayers the blessings of God, the Compassionate, if we in turn will not practise elementary compassion towards our fellow creatures.

And



George Bernard Shaw – Atrocities are not less atrocities when they occur in laboratories and are called medical research.

And

Brigid Brophy (author) –In point of fact, I am the very opposite on an anthropomorphiser. I don't hold animals superior or even equal to humans. The whole case for behaving decently to animals rests on the fact that we are the superior species. We are the species uniquely capable of imagination, rationality and moral choice - and that is precisely why we are under the obligation to recognise and respect the rights of animals.

**Even Dr Christian Barnard, the pioneer of transplant surgery, saw the error of his ways and vowed to abandon research on animals as a cruel and barbaric practice.**

Just a few of the many others I could quote are Buddha, Pythagoras, Leonardo da Vinci, Francis Bacon, Voltaire, Samuel Johnson, William Cowper, Jeremy Bentham, William Blake, Schopenhauer, Lord Shaftesbury, Cardinal Newman, Victor Hugo, Richard Wagner, Cardinal Gibbons, Mark Twain, Thomas Hardy, William James, George Gissing, C G Jung, Dr Albert Schweitzer, Queen Victoria, C S Lewis, John Galsworthy, Arthur Koestler, Charles Chaplin, John Cowper Powys, Adlai Stevenson, Dr Joseph Bronowski, Prince Rainier, Muriel the Lady Dowding, Fannie Hurst (author), Clare Boothe Luce, Dr Graham Richard (lecturer Oxford University), Professor Peter Singer.

**I quote the British Medical Journal 28/2/2004: -Clinicians and the public often consider it axiomatic that animal research has contributed to the treatment of human disease, yet little evidence is available to support this view.....Despite the lack of systematic evidence for its effectiveness, basic animal research....receives much more funding than clinical research.**

I have also enclosed a recent example I have from a magazine called Ethical Treatment for Animals.

## A CASE OF VIVISECTION

Because of secrecy provisions surrounding animal experimentation, it is not possible to report the names of either the informants or the experimenters, and the institution involved.

Tessa was one of six dogs in an ill-fated experiment, at one of Australia's major hospitals. Tessa is now dead, although one of her pups born at the hospital lives on.

The background of the dogs is not known, but they most likely came from a pound after having been dumped, lost or surrendered. After spending a stressful week at the pound, they would have been transferred to an animal supplier, and after at least another week there, they would have been transferred to the hospital. At each stage they would have been confronted with strange surroundings - people, housing, food, and other dogs. But this was nothing compared with what was to come.

Experimentation on the dogs involved surgery to their throats to produce permanent openings that would allow insertion of tubes to monitor the dogs during subsequent testing. Tessa was one of two who underwent further surgery.

On Friday, two days after the initial surgery, the dogs were inspected by the hospital's animal ethics committee during one of its meetings which are held every two months. One dog, Pedro, was particularly unwell. Mucous was discharging through the hole in his neck and he was clearly disturbed. A research assistant was called to attend to Pedro. He gave no comfort to the dog, he seemed to have little experience with dogs, let alone sick dogs. This person was obviously frightened of Pedro, so they were both scared of each other. The situation was referred a veterinarian, who was asked that he attend to Pedro that day.

A follow up inspection on the following Tuesday by a concerned ethics committee member found that the dog was extremely distressed, disorientated and in pain. He had glazed eyes, and mucus and vomit sprayed from the hole in his neck as he shook his head frantically to get relief. The hole was gaping, and raw flesh was visible. Pedro was pacing his pen which was splattered in mucus, vomit and diarrhoea. The veterinarian was contacted. Nevertheless, later that same day, Pedro was found with a collar around his neck rubbing on the raw wound!

Inspections of Pedro's medical records showed that he had been left with no treatment over the weekend following the ethics committee inspection. He had received no pain relief.

Following an investigation, the experiment was terminated, and the fate of the six dogs then had to be determined. This posed a real dilemma for some members of the ethics committee.

To complicate matters Tessa gave birth to puppies. It was clear that she had become pregnant while at the hospital. It is unclear where she gave birth - either in the day yard surrounded by large numbers of barking dogs, or at night in the small cage with no bedding where she was kept crammed into a room with many other dogs. Regardless, all but one of her pups were quickly snatched from her and reportedly destroyed.

The problem of what to do with the dogs still remained. Some members of the committee considered that the dogs deserved another chance because of all they had been through. The majority of members were not prepared to allow this.

Because of the extra surgery that Tessa and the other dog had been subjected to, it was concluded that their health problems were too great for them to be rehoused. They were marked for death.

After much debate, a major animal welfare organization was approached to see if it would be prepared to rehouse any of the four remaining dogs. They agreed to do so, if the hospital would undertake remedial surgery to close the hole in each dog's neck. The animal welfare organization did not have the appropriate expertise to confidently undertake the work. The surgeon who originally operated on the dogs refused to carry out the remedial work.

Luckily, one of the dogs healed naturally and required no surgery. Therefore the animal welfare organization agreed to take him. And so it was that only one dog was given another chance at life.

Pedro and the other dogs suffered for months, and were then killed - the usual fate for experimental dogs. Tessa had to endure mating, pregnancy and giving birth in awful conditions, and having her pups taken from her, all while being experimented upon.

This sad episode clearly demonstrates the fallacy of the argument put forward by proponents of pound supply, that the animals are simply put to sleep, and never wake up after their operations. It also demonstrates how ineffective Ethics Committees are in protecting experimental animals.

## **XENOTRANSPLANTATION – A PANDORA’S BOX**

Xenotransplantation is the process of genetically manipulating animals for the purpose of animal to human organ transplants. It builds bridges for the transference of disease between different species. The risk of zoonoses, or animal to human diseases, is very unpredictable and largely incurable even if detected. The likelihood is that far more people would die from epidemics similar to the current one of SARS than would be “saved” by organ transplants. It is certainly not ethically sound to allow a few people who could benefit from organ transplants (less than one hundredth of one percent of the population) to put at risk millions of healthy people. There is mounting evidence that diseases like AIDS are the direct result of this type of genetic manipulation.

It is certainly not ethically sound to use other sentient beings as living organ banks, to endure a life of constant suffering. To begin with these animals are subjected to the same cruelty as battery hens by being kept in bare wire floored cages. On top of that, they are subjected to repeated painful medical and surgical procedures: For example: over stimulation of the animals’ ovaries can cause painful cysts and enlarged ovaries. During the microinjection process genes often reach the wrong target cells within the embryo and cause painful abnormalities, severe diarrhoea and vomiting and death. An animal thrashing around in agony in a bare wire floored cage sprayed with vomit and diarrhoea is typical of these experiments. Certainly, we already treat farm and experimental animals this way, much to our disgrace. It is high time we started to improve our black record of atrocities towards our fellow creatures, not add yet another hideous crime.

**It only takes one (non-human primate) transplant to start an epidemic. Only one. You are playing Russian roulette...Dr Allan P220 Sacred Cows and Golden Geese.**

P 88 of the Response paper on xenotransplantation issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council admits that animal organs, even when genetically manipulated, are not suitable for humans because they are, for example, the wrong size. At best it puts the entire world’s population of healthy people at risk to achieve some improvement for a tiny fraction of the population who might benefit from a transplant. At worst it could benefit no one at all and cause worldwide plagues. Healthy people cannot possibly gain anything. They can only lose their most precious possession – their health.

As a result of these meetings Australia wide xenotransplantation has been banned altogether for the next 5 years and primates are excluded entirely from the research but no such progress seems to be occurring in any other area of animal experimentation.

## SOURCES

'Animals Today' Vol 10 No 4 2002

**NH&MRC Response to 2002 public consultation draft guidelines and discussion paper on xenotransplantation**

'The Cutting Edge' SBS 2/3/04

'SACRED COWS AND GOLDEN GEESE The Human Cost of Experiments on Animals' By C Ray Greek (doctor) and Jean Swingle Greek (vet)

## SACRED COWS AND GOLDEN GEESE

The Human Cost of Experiments on Animals  
By C Ray Greek (doctor) and Jean Swingle Greek (vet)

This book does not dwell on the terrible suffering and cruelty inflicted on the billions of animals used in research. Instead, it demonstrates how advances in medical science have been made not because of but in spite of animal experimentation.

It systematically examines the claims made by animal experimenters and in every case it turns out, when investigated, that all the advances were either:

- Falsely claimed to be achieved by the use of animals

OR

- Were developed through the use of animals but could just as easily have been done using human cadavers or other means.

Worse still, many advances have been delayed or even derailed by animal experiments and human clinical evidence has been ignored because of the failure of animal experimenters to reproduce it. A good example of this is Thalidomide.

Thalidomide was prescribed to pregnant women to help with morning sickness and sleeplessness after being thoroughly tested on animals over many years with no adverse results. Even after hundreds of horribly deformed human babies were born as a result of their mothers taking Thalidomide it remained on the market because the animal experimenters could not reproduce this result in animals no matter what they did. Thus human clinical evidence was ignored, as it so often is, and the drug caused another 10,000 human babies to be born with missing limbs before it was finally taken off the market.

**PENICILLIN** was delayed and almost derailed by animal testing because it kills guinea pigs and causes deformities and birth defects in rats.

**ASPIRIN**, luckily, was discovered by Hippocrates around 400 BC in the form of willow bark. If it had been discovered today, with our obsession with animal testing, it would almost certainly have been banned. It causes birth defects in mice and rats and extensive blood abnormalities in cats.

Animal testing persists because it provides a legal sanctuary for pharmaceutical companies and a very profitable business for researchers. There is always a less than 50/50 chance that medication will produce the same results in humans as in animals, and it is usually much less. This is not science. It is expensive and dangerous gambling.

**"Most adverse reactions that occur in man cannot be demonstrated, anticipated or avoided by the routine sub-acute and chronic toxicity experiment."**

Toxicologist, Gerhardt Zbinden  
in *Lancet* (in 1966)

safety led to a massive rise in animal experiments. As a *Lancet* editorial put it: "The range of a truly safe drug has dominated public expectation, and governments have responded by demanding ever more costly and time-consuming screening of potential agents before tests can be started in man."<sup>10</sup> Other substances, such as pesticides, food additives, cosmetics and industrial chemicals, also came under increased scrutiny. The result was more and more animal tests.

The safety explosion of the 1940s meant that animal tests became very big business as private contract laboratories were established to conduct the mass experiments now required. In addition to these commercial vested interests, there was also a reluctance by government regulatory authorities to change procedures once they had become unshirined in test guidelines. As Swedish *in vitro* scientists point out: "Once a test procedure has been accepted and incorporated into guidelines, it becomes extremely resistant to further development and thus it is characterized by a static quality."<sup>11</sup> Companies tend to follow the guidelines, since it may be too expensive to risk rejection of a submission.<sup>12</sup>

Regulatory bodies might also argue that alternative tests are not yet fully validated, but even so they seem reluctant to phase out any tests, however meaningless, in case of a disaster the blame would fall on them. Just look at the reluctance of governments to eliminate lethal dose testing (LD50/ED50), despite the cruelty, the lack of relevance to human medicine, and the fact that it was introduced 50 years ago.

The combination of vested interests and government intransigence makes it difficult to influence animal safety

tests. It is revealing that in the British figures for the use of animals in drug research in the 1990s, the number of animals employed to assess the toxicity of medicines fell by just 27 per cent compared with a decline of 68 per cent in other drug research (not excluding toxicity tests).

It is ironic that *in vitro* tests should be attacked as insufficiently validated when animal experiments have *never* been validated!<sup>13</sup> As long ago as 1966, toxicologist Gerhardt Zbinden argued: "Most adverse reactions that occur in man cannot be demonstrated, anticipated or avoided by the routine sub-acute and chronic toxicity experiment."<sup>14</sup> And "despite subsequent test refinements" a recent survey found only a 5.25 per cent correlation between harmful drug effects in patients and the results of animal experiments.<sup>15</sup> Not surprisingly, drug disasters continue to hit the headlines as animals fail to identify serious hazards of drug therapy.

#### ANIMAL TESTS GIVE FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY

Animal tests not only give a false sense of security, but there is also the risk that worthwhile therapies may be lost or delayed through toxic effects that do not occur in human beings. Development of propranolol, the first widely used beta blocking drug for heart disease and blood pressure, was put in jeopardy when it caused rats to collapse and dogs to vomit severely.<sup>16</sup> On the basis of animal tests, the anti-rejection drug FK506 was feared too toxic for human use, and if it hadn't been given as a last chance option to transplant patients in "desperate plight" its life saving qualities may never have been appreciated.<sup>17</sup> The discovery that rimoxifen caused cancer in rats would have halted development of this anti-cancer drug had the company R1 not already been reassured by its safety profile in human patients.<sup>18</sup> Dr Howard Florey, who developed penicillin for therapeutic use, later admitted it was a "lucky chance" that mice rather than guinea pigs had been used — "If we had used guinea pigs exclusively, we should have said that penicillin was toxic, and we probably should not have proceeded to try and overcome the difficulties of producing the substance for use in man."<sup>19</sup> Indeed, Dennis Parke describes how his former teacher, Alexander Fleming,

was "convinced that penicillin was safe" in his experiments on mice. How wrong he was. "The mouse model was not a good model for the human situation and the safety of penicillin was not realized."<sup>20</sup>

The arthritis drug rofecoxib is an answer to those who say that the 'whole body' of an animal is not necessary in drug testing. It is now widely used in human medicine in other European countries, but it is considered contraindicated in the UK market because of a concern over its safety: the drug is very similar to the toxic phenylbutazone. Animal tests do indicate that rofecoxib is broken down, like phenylbutazone, into potentially toxic metabolites. But studies with healthy volunteers and patients reveal that rofecoxib has a unique and complex pattern of metabolism in human subjects which is thought to account for its comparative safety.<sup>21</sup>

Neither is the 'science' of the safety test of animal suffering. The severe levels are often chosen to induce harmful effects. This is obvious in the case of lethal dose testing (LD50) where animals are being deliberately poisoned to death to find a statistical index of toxicity. Even one of the 'refinements' to the LD50 — the 'fixed dose procedure' — requires clear signs of toxicity before it is stopped. In prolonged toxicity tests, the highest dose levels are again chosen to induce injury so that physicians have some idea which body systems require special monitoring during human trials. High doses are also administered to some of the animals used in carcinogenicity tests. This is done to avoid the huge number of creatures that would be required for statistical reasons to mimic the human population's exposure to smaller amounts of drugs and chemicals.

#### RELIABLE TESTS WITHOUT SUFFERING

Despite reluctance on animal experiments, the potential of *in vitro* tests has long been realized. In the case of penicillin, necessity meant that much of the safety testing was carried out in cell cultures.<sup>22</sup> There was considerable urgency: penicillin was required for use in World War II and very little of the drug was available for the early tests, both of which favoured test-tube methods — which are generally faster and require less material than animal experiments.



Later on, it was found that the harmful effects of Thalidomide could be investigated in human cell tests.

Today, literally hundreds of different *in vitro* systems have been devised to test for safety, and in 1992 Ekwall listed nine ongoing or recently completed validation programs, mainly, but not exclusively, for skin and eye irritation.<sup>(1)</sup>

#### PUBLIC PRESSURE AND THE DRAIZE TEST

Much of the impetus for *in vitro* test development has come from humane research organizations and public pressure groups. A classic example is the campaign against the Draize eye irritation test. So effective were animal protection groups in focusing on the test that within a decade 90 *in vitro* systems were either in use or under development.<sup>(2)</sup> As a result, the use of rabbits declined rapidly. By the Draize campaign, perhaps more than any other, highlighted the concept of non-animal safety techniques from both an ethical and scientific point of view. Its influence is therefore far wider than might at first be imagined.

*In vitro* safety tests are now said to be increasingly employed, but the 25th Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology in Miami, Florida, USA, during 1990 shows there is still a long way to go, with just three out of every ten studies involving either alternative techniques or human subjects.<sup>(3)</sup>

Another hurdle is the source of cells and tissues for *in vitro* tests. Although pain-free in that no living animals are used, test-tube techniques often employ material from animals killed for the purpose. But, as Spanish researchers explain, "...*in vitro* approaches to toxicity testing have many potential advantages compared with conventional animal testing. One such advantage is the possibility of using human cellular models, thereby avoiding the difficulty of extrapolating animal data to humans because of species differences either in biotransformation or in the targets of toxic effects."<sup>(4)</sup> Or, put another way, "marked species differences provide the impetus for using human tissues for pharmacological and toxicological studies."<sup>(5)</sup>

It is also vitally important that *in vitro* tests are assessed for their accuracy by comparing results with human data rather than animal experiments. All too often, validation programs utilize animal test results, but with this approach any lack of concordance between animal and *in vitro* tests will reflect poorly on the

alternative technique, yet it could be accurately predicting human responses.

Ultimately, whatever preliminary experiments are carried out, the key test is with human volunteers and patients. Only then will physicians know exactly how a drug is processed by the body and how people will respond. Dennis Parker, who has witnessed the alarming rise in animal experiments, now believes "...there are indeed more appropriate alternatives to experimental animal studies and, for the safety evaluation of new drugs, these comprise short term *in vitro* tests with micro-organisms, cells and tissues, followed by sophisticated pharmacokinetic studies in human volunteers and patients."<sup>(6)</sup>

Parker's logic may be impeccable, but if past experience is any guide, we cannot rely on science to put its own house in order. Only public pressure can do that. □

**In 1979 Dr Robert Sharpe gave up his career as a research chemist at London's Royal Postgraduate Medical School, having reached the conclusion that the methods by which his colleagues tested his chemicals (on animals) were both unethical and unscientific. He is consulted by many organizations and is the author of *The Cruel Deception and Science on Trial - The Human Cost of Animal Experiments*.**

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## The Cruel Deception The use of animals in medical research

Dr Robert Sharpe

Thorsons, 1988, \$15.95

(to order, see catalogue)

Is vivisection really necessary? Dr Robert Sharpe says "no" and backs his arguments with a thoroughly referenced text.

This is a book that should make all vivisectioners stop and think about the validity of their research methods, and it should also make everyone else think twice about the prescription drugs they take with such confidence.

Sharpe's arguments begin with the historical. Using the evidence on the incidence of infectious diseases, he shows that control of disease and increased longevity owe more to "efficient public health services and a good standard of living" than experiments on animals. Prevention is better than cure.

But "cure" is the magic word, the glamour goal that attracts research funds. So-called "breakthroughs" in the treatment of ailments are more newsworthy, even more laudable, it seems, than recommendations for sensible lifestyle changes.

Prescription drugs are big business for the manufacturers, but for consumers, often a risky business. Just because new drugs have been exhaustively tested on animals does not make them safe for humans. Humans are different to other animals, just as non-human species are different to each other.

Sharpe details the dangerous side effects of many drugs (which have been developed using animals) such as Eraldin, Opren, and a long list of others which have been withdrawn from sale in recent years. He believes that "no-one knows the real level of drug-induced disease because side-effects are grossly under-reported." Yet scientists continue to experiment on animals even though the results they obtain are misleading.

Dr Sharpe presents a very clear-cut and convincing case against vivisection both for its unnecessary cruelty to animals, and its cruel deception of humans. □

## THE TOTAL FAILURE OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF ETHICS COMMITTEES

The original xenotransplantation discussion paper stated –*The person in the last category (Cat. C) is required to put aside their personal philosophies, which may oppose the use of animals for research purposes, in order to participate in a system that will assist in improving the welfare of experimental animals (page 88)*

This makes a mockery of the very term “ethics” committee. They are told to put aside the very thing they are supposed to be there to discuss – **THE ETHICS (OR RATHER LACK OF) INVOLVED IN VIVISECTION.**

Page 88 of the original discussion paper also stated *The animal welfare lobby in Australia continues to have major input into all aspects of animal experimentation*

This is simply not true. In 1998 Animals Australia conducted a survey of Category C members of AECs and found that about half of them were not happy with the way decisions were made. They were not given satisfactory answers to even the most basic questions about justification for and alternatives to vivisection. Many ethics committees are simply used as rubber stamps on experiments, no matter how cruel and/or pointless.

P36 of the xenotransplantation Response document outlines the RSPCA’s complaints that current controls do not give adequate consideration to the welfare of animals involved in xenotransplantation. If these barbaric experiments are going to continue then the animals involved should, at the very least, have watchdogs **comprised entirely of people with exclusively animal rights or animal welfare interests (such as Humane Charities Australia, Animals Australia and the RSPCA)** who have absolute right of access (without notice) and control over the care of the animals involved in any research institution. These groups could seek veterinary advice as needed but they need to have absolute authority over how the animals are treated and the right to end any experiment, any time, if their demands on animal welfare are not met. None of the groups mentioned in the response document (NHMRC and GTRAP) provide adequate protection for helpless creatures unable even to speak for themselves.

Researchers themselves should not be permitted to be members of ethics committees. The fact that they are is equivalent to accused murderers being allowed to sit as jurors at their own trials. I use the comparison very aptly because more than one great thinker, including Leonardo da Vinci, has said that the day will come when the murder of animals is regarded in the same way as the murder of men.

**PROPOSAL:**

**That animal ethics committees be comprised of two people involved in animal welfare work, one person involved in animal rights work, one veterinarian and one person involved in research which does not use animals but alternatives.**

I enclose an article on humane research.

# Lighthouse Laboratories Ltd - Supporting animal-free experimentation

*Lighthouse Laboratories Ltd (LLL) was established in 2003 as a scientific and medical research institution. It differs from many such establishments because of its animal-free experimentation (antivivisection) policy. Helen Rosser spoke to LLL founder and Executive Chairman, Graeme Tucker to find out more about this innovative move into more ethical medical research.*



**There seems to be a longstanding association between cancer research and animal experimentation. What made you decide to take the 'animal-free' approach?**

My support for animal-free (antivivisection) research is a personal choice. Putting personal feelings aside, I was aware that LLL needed to be different from current research entities and funding bodies. I also realised that prior to the establishment of LLL, Australia did not have a public research institute that had a constitutional policy of animal-free (antivivisection) experimentation. Thus, apart from LLL having appeal to animal welfare groups, LLL now provides 'choice' to the general public and to the research community.

**What advantages do you think will flow from your decision to avoid the use of animals in your research?**

The decision is purely ethical rather than scientific - it is a policy of conscience. I believe that parties on either side of the fence could argue scientific advantages and disadvantages, because in all honesty, I feel that I could argue objectively from both sides.

**LLL seems to have a strong focus on neuroblastoma. Could you explain why you have chosen to focus on this specific form of cancer?**

Neuroblastoma is a neoplasm (cancer/tumour) that predominantly affects children under five years of age. Neuroblastoma research, which aims at improving the treatment of the condition, is LLL'S founding research theme. Additional research programs will be introduced as public support for our antivivisection policy grows.

My interest in neuroblastoma comes from understanding and exploiting a phenomenon that I believe has enormous therapeutic potential both for neuroblastoma and for other forms of cancer. This phenomenon called 'spontaneous regression' involves the complete or partial disappearance of the neoplasm in circumstances where it cannot be attributed to medical intervention.

**Does your animal-free policy hamper your research in any way?**

From a biological perspective, no; however, I am sure that some elements, both on the periphery and within the research industry, will attempt to hinder our efforts.

**If your policy is to avoid the use of animals, why is LLL not listed with Humane Charities Australia?**

LLL's policy clearly rejects vivisection, however LLL would consider using 'discarded' biological material of animal origin, if it was harvested by a veterinarian for the purpose of clinical care such as diagnostic

testing. This scenario unfortunately is not catered for by HCA because diagnostic testing does not constitute 'treatment' as defined in clause 2 of the HCA criteria. This aspect is the main reason why LLL has not signed

For more information about the work of Lighthouse Laboratories Ltd or to make a financial contribution go to [www.lighthouselabs.org.au](http://www.lighthouselabs.org.au)

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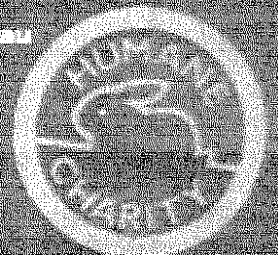
## YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CRUEL

## to be kind.

When you make a financial contribution to a health charity, either by donation or bequest, are you unknowingly supporting animal experimentation?

Visit [www.humanecharities.org.au](http://www.humanecharities.org.au) to discover which charities do not support animal-based research.

Or contact us by mail  
PO Box 7018  
Noble Park East  
VIC 3174



Be aware of how YOUR charity dollars are spent.

Humane Charities Australia

# Humane Charities Australia Inc.

- moving towards a more humane future

The use of animals in medical research has always been a difficult issue to debate in public. Whatever ethical or scientific arguments are presented, they are thwarted by the big public relations companies employed by research institutes who promote such campaigns as Pink Ribbon Day, Jeans for Genes Day and Daffodil Day.

Many people happily donate to these campaigns genuinely believing that they are contributing towards saving the lives of babies, children and people with life-threatening conditions. What they may not know however, is that a large proportion of the money goes towards animal-based research.

The use of animals in medical research is considered by many as a 'necessary evil'. Many would agree that numerous procedures that animals endure for the sake of 'medical progress' can be horrific, but they acknowledge that as the practice is sanctioned by 'supposed' medical experts it is something that needs to continue - even if behind closed doors. As a result, many people who are opposed to the use of animals in medical research feel powerless to stop it. They may not even be aware that they could in fact be supporting animal experiments through their donations and bequests.



In an effort to stop - or at least reduce - the use of animals in medical research, it is important to focus on reducing the amount of donated funds to those health charities that implicitly support organisations conducting animal experiments.

In the US, a group called 'The Council of Humane Giving' provides a list of health charities that do not fund animal-based research. A similar scheme is operated by the National Anti-Vivisection Society in the UK who publishes 'The Good Charities Guide'. Until recently there was no Australian equivalent, but thanks to support and advice from the US and UK groups a small coalition of Australian organisations have formed 'Humane Charities Australia (HCA) Inc.'. A similar listing is being developed in New Zealand.

The statement of purpose is: "*To provide a source of health charities that do not fund animal experiments, so that vital funding can be redirected towards more ethical and scientifically-valid research.*"

Groups who form membership are:  
Choose Cruelty Free  
Anti-Vivisection Union of South Australia  
Animals Australia  
Compassion for Animals

HCA is a valuable resource that will assist the general public to make an informed choice about how their charity dollars are spent and take an active role in redirecting funding to more ethical and scientifically-valid research. This is one step closer to bringing an end to animal experiments within Australia.

**As at the time of writing, the charities that qualify for listing (as being 'humane') are:**

Ashcare Incorporated  
Australian Cord Blood Bank Foundation  
Australian Foundation For Disability  
Australia Healthy Mission  
Autism Association of N.S.W.  
Boroondara Aged Services Society  
The Cairnmillar Institute  
Can-Survive (Hopeline)  
COTA (Council of the Aged) (NSW)  
Foster Grandparent Scheme (Vic) Inc.  
The Fred Hollows Foundation  
The Geriatric Medical Foundation of Queensland  
HAPPI Foundation Ltd  
Hippocrates Foundation  
John Pierce Centre  
The MAWA (Medical Advances Without Animals)  
Montrose Access (The Queensland Society for Crippled Children)  
The Richmond Fellowship of NSW  
Royal Freemason's Benevolent Institution of NSW  
Scope (Vic) Ltd  
Senses Foundation Inc.  
GROW Community Mental Health Movement SA Branch

For further details about the project and to obtain an updated list of charities visit [www.humanecharities.org.au](http://www.humanecharities.org.au) or write to:  
PO Box 7018,  
Noble Park East, Vic 3174.

To receive updates to the HCA list and be notified of occasional calls for action, register as a supporter by emailing your name and postal address to: [info@humanecharities.org.au](mailto:info@humanecharities.org.au)

Helen Rosser