

Taylor Green

English 3

4/22/2018

Animal Testing is Absurd

Animals have been harmed and abused throughout history for biomedical research. The tests that the animals go through in the name of medical advancements are oftentimes excruciatingly painful and at times can even cause death. Even though animal testing has made somewhat of a contribution to modern medicine, it is becoming outdated. Animal testing is completely absurd because it is immoral, unreliable and unnecessary.

The bodies of animals are not the same as human beings. Paul Furlong, Professor of Clinical Neuroimaging at Aston University (UK), states that "It's very hard to create an animal model that even equates closely to what we're trying to achieve in the human." Animals are vastly different anatomically, metabolically and cellularly from humans. Because of these differences, animals make poor models to test something out for human beings because it might produce different and even dangerous side-effects once it is actually released for public consumption. In an article from the New England Anti-Vivisection Society, it mentions how unreliable and disastrous the results of animal testing can be. The article states, "A 2004 study from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration found that 92 percent of drugs entering clinical trials following animal testing fail to be approved. Of those approved, half are withdrawn or relabeled due to severe or fatal adverse effects not detected during animal tests." This quote proves how unnecessary animal testing is because even when those tests are conducted, the

medicines that are trying to be distributed to citizens are often called back due to it not meeting certain criteria. Since a majority of the drugs also don't meet approval, putting animals through intense pain for insignificant results is futile.

Another tragic example of animal testing being unreliable and essentially useless occurred over 60 years ago. In the 1950s, a sleeping drug called Thalidomide caused over 10,000 babies to be born with malformed limbs. This drug was tested on animals prior to its release, but it didn't show these effects in the mice, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, and cats that it was tested on. Because of medical research, many animals were forced to suffer for no real reason. Humans too were put through a tremendous amount of pain and distress due to the results of unprincipled animal testing.

Furthermore, the amount of money being wasted on these drugs and medicine is preposterous if they are ineffective for human beings. According to Senator Jeff Flake's "Wastebook" of government funding, over \$7.3 million of taxpayers' money was wasted on studies involving animals in 2016. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) found \$56.4 million of government funds spent on animal experiments. These tests were conducted over the span of several years, but they have yet to give any concrete results or drastically change the medical industry. It is simply unethical and illogical to waste the money of Americans for the sole purpose of harming animals if there is no benefit from it in the long run.

Not only is animal testing cruel and unusual punishment, it is also outdated. There are also better alternatives to animal testing. Performing test and experiments in Petri-dishes produces more accurate results than actually animal testing. As stated previously, animals and

humans have vast anatomic differences which is why testing on animals to see which specific drugs work for humans is absurd. However, there have been advancements in science that can allow professionals to use artificial human skin for testing drugs and cosmetics to see a more accurate result on humans. Performing these tests are not only more beneficial because it spares the lives of innocent creatures, but it is more logical considering the fact that these products are created for humans, so it would only make sense that it is tested on humans.

Animal testing is not only immoral but it is pointless. Although they are different species, animals have all of the same rights as humans and shouldn't be exploited for medical purposes. Not all of the drugs tested on animals work for humans, therefore it's a waste of time and money. Scientists have spent years conducting experiments on animals in an attempt to make a groundbreaking discovery but to no avail. Due to animal testing, beautiful creatures are forced to suffer for no real reason.

Works Cited:

**“PETA.” *Animal Testing: Judging the Greatness of Our Nation*,
treatanimalsright.weebly.com/peta.html.**

**“Manuscripts and Articles.” *The Journal of Philosophy, Science & Law :: The History and Implications of Testing Thalidomide on Animals*,
jpsl.org/archives/history-and-implications-testing-thalidomide-animals/.**

**Capaldo, Theodora. “Animal Data Is Not Reliable for Human Health Research (Op-Ed).”
LiveScience, Purch, 6 June 2014,
www.livescience.com/46147-animal-data-unreliable-for-humans.html.**

**“This Ad Spells It Out: Animal Tests Are Going Nowhere.” *PETA*, 16 Apr. 2018,
www.peta.org/blog/experiments-on-animals-fail-90-of-the-time-why-are-they-still-done/.**

**Capaldo, Theodora. “Animal Data Is Not Reliable for Human Health Research (Op-Ed).”
LiveScience, Purch, 6 June 2014,
www.livescience.com/46147-animal-data-unreliable-for-humans.html.**