

Animals and Painful Experiments in Canada

The Vancouver based ecology organization will start new public awareness campaigns during the 2007 World Week for Animals in Laboratories. These efforts are as part of international opposition to cruel, scientifically fallacious experiments. Details are available at our Website at www.lifeforcefoundation.org.

“The horrors of vivisection continues behind closed doors.” stated Peter Hamilton, Lifeforce Founder, “Government and organizations’ promises for “Replacement, Reduction and Refinement” have been broken. More animals are suffering in inhumane, scientifically fallacious experiments and more health care funds are being wasted.”

“Over 2.3 million animals are killed every year in Canadian labs. Government, health organizations, businesses and public donations fund it. According to the last statistics there is a continued increase. Dogs and cats are seized from pounds. There has not been phase out of cruel, scientifically fallacious “animal models” even though reliable, non-animal humane methodologies are available. The vivisection multi-billion dollar industry polices themselves,” stated Peter Hamilton. Lifeforce Founding Director, “There must be public accountability. There must be an end to this waste of scarce health care funds”,

Animal Models

Researchers create “animal models” by attempting to mimic naturally occurring human health problems in formerly healthy animals. However, they are not studying the actual human maladies and animals react differently to the drugs and methodologies tested. There are major biological and anatomical differences between and within all species.

A recent example of inaccurate animal models is the clinical trials that resulted in severe side effects but proved safe in monkeys and other animals.

The animal experiments are only part of the research system. They are conducted before, during and after human clinical and invitro (nonanimal) studies. For example, Depro-Provera, now being used as a birth control method, caused cancer in animals and increased risk of breast cancer in people but is still marketed. Further, saccharin caused cancer in animals and a warning was put on the packaged product. Drug side effects cannot be determined in animal models so are listed as warnings when marketed. When drugs fail the animal tests companies say that you can't rely on animal tests.

Increase of Animals

A Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) report of the numbers of animals used in research, teaching and testing has revealed a continued increased of animals. In 2004 and 2005, a total of 2,307,232 and 2,316,285 animals, respectively, were used.

A total of 3,713 non-human primates were used in 2005, an increase from the 2004 results (2,379).

Pain

In 2005, institutions providing the information stated that 3,480 cats, 10,737 dogs and 3,713 non-human primates were used.

They confessed that 1237 dogs and 507 cats were subjected to “moderate to severe distress or discomfort” (CCAC Category D). The use of pain relievers for invasive procedures can be withheld.

There were also 451 non-human primates used in pain Cat.egory D

Animals are subjected to “fundamental studies” – basic science that is curiosity studies with no direct benefit to humans. That's why whenever “breakthroughs” are reported researchers add that further studies are needed.

In many cases the vivisectors are not doctors or veterinarians. They are students and professors.

CCAC

The Peer Review System and the pro-vivisection organizations such as the CCAC protect the vivisectors not the animals. The CCAC inspections are confidential (many facilities are only given conditional approvals and two are on “probation” - April 2004 to March 2005) and there are no bans on even the cruelest practices (categories D and E). Lifeforce is the only organization in Canada that has succeeded in laying cruelty to animal charges against researchers. Our 1984 case exposed the practice of restraining baboons for four months in experiments funded by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

“Alternatives”

So why do these questionable practices continue? Methodologies are available that are more effective and do not involve animals. (See Better Living and Links on our web site). The multi-billion dollar animal research industry includes businesses from cage and restraint manufacturers to animal dealers. A decrease in animal use means a decrease in profits.

Lifeforce Recommendations

1. Reduction in the numbers of animals used in experiments.
2. Goal of phasing out the use of unreliable animal models at least 10% per year.
3. A ban on chronic restraint of animals and painful experiments (Categories D and E).
4. Inspection reports of vivisections be public information (as in the US)

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For further information contact lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com or 604-649-5258

BACKGROUND

Dogs and cats are still obtained from “Random Sources” such as pounds and dealers – some were formerly people’s companions. Dogs are popular “animal models” for heart, spinal cord and smoking experiments. Cats are frequently used for brain/vision studies, spinal cord experiments and drug tests. Monkeys are used also used in brain/vision experiments. Many of the same experiments have continued for decades by the same vivisectors.

Examples of Animal Experiments in BC

