



Why we are opposed to animal experiments

Doctors Against Animal Experiments Germany

- ▶ was founded in 1979
- ▶ supports the immediate abolition of all animal experiments
- ▶ is a charitable organisation of several hundred doctors and scientists who work in the medical and veterinary fields
- ▶ is based in Germany and works on a national level
- ▶ does not carry out any illegal activities

What we want

- ▶ The abolition of all animal experiments.
- ▶ Increased support and funding of research that does not involve animals.
- ▶ Increased research and funding into how disease may be prevented.

What we do

- ▶ We provide scientifically based information and material on animal experiments (leaflets, brochures, books, videos) both for doctors and scientists working in the medical field, as well as for the general public.
- ▶ With our media work we bring the cruel and unscientific nature of animal experiments out into the general public.
- ▶ Our website is by far the most comprehensive site on animal experiments in the German speaking area. The German version is constantly updated and provides the latest news, facts and background information on this issue.
- ▶ Our internet database about thousands of animal experiments which have been carried out in Germany is the only one of its kind in the world. It demonstrates that animal experiments are cruel and useless.
- ▶ With our school outreach programme we offer

information and discussion events for pupils, teachers and parents.

- ▶ We promote the prevention of diseases and animal-free research by awarding prizes to scientists whose research work does not involve the use of animals.
- ▶ With our Eastern Europe project we provide animal-free teaching tools to Universities who are willing to replace animal dissections in science lessons.
- ▶ We work together with international organizations to influence politics and legislation also on EU level.

What you can do

- ▶ If you are a doctor, vet, dentist or scientist please support our work by becoming a member. The association is an officially registered charity; donations qualify for tax relief.
- ▶ Support our campaigns.
- ▶ Distribute our information material (available in German only).
- ▶ Support our work with donations.

Details

Doctors Against Animal Experiments Germany
Landsbergerstr. 103, 80339 Munich, Germany
Phone: +49 89 / 35 99 349
Fax: +49 89 / 35 65 21 27
info@doctors-against-animal-experiments.org
www.doctors-against-animal-experiments.org
Design: www.vego-design.de
Photos: Doctors Against Animal Experiments Germany, istockphoto.com
Bank account: Sparda-Bank
Account no. 951 731
Bank sort code 500 905 00
For international donations:
IBAN: DE 305 009 050 000 00 951 731
BIC: GENODEF 1512





Why we are opposed to animal experiments

► Animal experiments have to be rejected for ethical reasons. Animals, too, must be allowed the right to live according to the basic needs of their species. In every religion and moral philosophy the torturing and painful killing of animals is declared to be immoral and forbidden. Rather than concentrating purely on what they can do, medical researchers should also take into account what it is ethical to do. The use of defenceless animals of any species as disposable tools and testing systems for research and science is unethical.

► Experiments on animals are not a valid method of researching the different causes of human diseases nor of developing treatments for such diseases. Animals are artificially damaged to create so-called „models“ which are used to mimic

human diseases. Apart from some symptoms these „models“ have hardly any similarities with the human diseases. In the animal experiment factors including environment, nutrition, use of tobacco, social and psychological causes – and especially their interactions – cannot be reproduced. Using animal testing, in spite of millions of animal victims and enormous economic investments the medical research system has failed to make real breakthroughs in the fight against the main diseases of today (e.g. cancer, heart and vascular diseases, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, allergies, AIDS, etc.), contrary to its countless promises.

► The results of animal experiments cannot be reliably transferred to humans. Animal experiments cannot lead to a reliable conclusion about whether and to what extent the human and animal will react in the same way. In all cases the same test has to be repeated on humans, with unknown risks and unpredictable results. A con-

sequence of this unscientific extrapolation from laboratory animals to humans is that drugs have had to be withdrawn from the market because of unforeseen hazards or even lethal side-effects in humans – effects which were not seen in animals.

► Results from animal tests may have certain value for the same species, but they do not allow conclusions about effectiveness, tolerance nor safety for humans. The reason why many drugs and medical procedures are relatively safe cannot be put down to animal experiments, but to the fact that all drugs have to be tested on humans, in the so-called clinical trials required by law.

► Human beings and their diseases should be considered holistically. Vital aspects of the processes of disease and healing, such as social, spiritual and intellectual aspects, are ignored. Traditional medical ideas about healing, the

dignity of patients and even death are hardly ever considered.

► Researching the real causes of our illnesses is much more useful and promising and is even cheaper than more and more experiments on defenceless animals. Extensive studies with patients and healthy people have shown the impact of life-style on the origin and process of different diseases. It has clearly been shown that the diseases of our civilization are mainly caused by smoking, alcohol abuse, fatty and meat-rich nutrition, stress, lack of exercise and others. No animal has to suffer and die to investigate these important factors.

► In many fields of medical research, animal testing could already be replaced by in vitro (test tube) studies using cell cultures, tissue samples, micro-organisms, etc. The properties of different substances such as their toxicity, whether they

can cause cancer, whether they can cause birth defects, etc. can be studied using test tube systems. Computer modelling is also extremely useful here and complements the test tube systems. This modern approach to investigating drugs and chemicals yields truly relevant results for humans. It has opened new avenues in research exceeding the limited possibilities of animal-based research by far.

Conclusion:

Animal experiments are not only cruel and therefore unethical, they are also unscientific and unsafe and must be abolished immediately in the interest of man and animals and replaced by meaningful and humane procedures.