

# Animal experiments do not improve human health

From: TONI BROCKHOVEN  
Beauty Without Cruelty

APRIL 7 to the 24th marked World Week for Laboratory Animals. The world's first organisation campaigning against animal experiments was founded in 1875 and the same campaigns continue 135 years later, for the same reasons: animal test results cannot be directly applied to humans because they are inaccurate as well as being inhumane and

completely unnecessary.

We, as taxpayers, are funding animal abuse. There are many alternatives to the use of animals in research, but a lack of availability of necessary technology, and of the finance to provide such technology, has been given as an excuse when alternative methods are not used in this country.

According to animal tests, lemon juice is a deadly poison but arsenic, hemlock and botulin are

safe for humans.

Aspirin fails animal tests, as does digitalis (a heart drug), cancer treatments, insulin (causes animal birth defects), penicillin and other medicines that are safe to humans.

Non-animal methods include in-vitro tests, skin and cell cultures, epidemiology, computer software, databases of tests already done to avoid duplication and human clinical trial tests.

Eminent researchers

themselves conclude that animal testing retards success rates for humans.

No laws anywhere in the world give worthwhile protection to laboratory animals. There is no evidence whatsoever showing that an increase in the number of animal experiments brings a corresponding improvement in human health and the understanding of disease.

This insistence on the use of animals has on many occasions

obscured the real way in which the discovery was first made. We know of no experiments, as such, which have led to a cure of a human disease.

As far as cosmetics and household products go, for many years Beauty Without Cruelty has been investigating the humane status of manufacturers and their products and the results are published as a free approved list as a service to the public, available on [www.bwcsa.co.za](http://www.bwcsa.co.za)

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