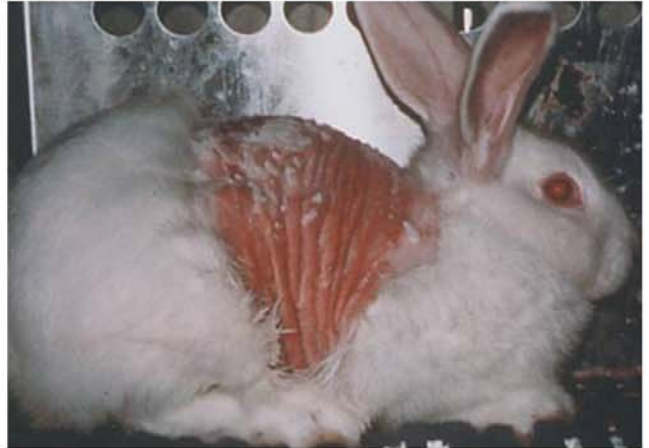


VIVISECTION

n: performance of experiments on living 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, they are inaccurate, expensive, inhumane and unnecessary. Animals have vastly different metabolisms than humans due to differences in ADME: Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, and Elimination rates. In addition, while drugs are most often tested on rodents (and dogs), rodents are physiologically unable to vomit - an important feature because this means that they cannot expel a toxic substance as humans can. They also cannot complain of headaches, nausea, stomach pains and other side-effects.



There are no statistics available to taxpayers, yet taxpayers are funding vivisection! The entire process should be transparent, without the red tape. First and foremost the law needs to recognise animals as sentient. Non-animal methods should be the methods of choice in all instances. The STANDARDS SA allows "death as an end point", which means the animals must die as a result of the experiment; the standard does not ban tests like the LD50, (lethal dosage 50%) which is of no value to humans. Furthermore, the standard allows for the inclusion of pain experiments, where the animal is literally allowed to die of pain.



In 1995, Christopher Reeves the actor, was treated with Sygen, a drug that had been extensively tested on animals and that was supposed to help his spinal cord damage, but instead shut down his lungs. There are too many examples to list here, of the failures of 'successful' animal tests, which when applied to humans, have failed miserably and often resulted in unforeseen and tragic side effects and / or death, but a list can be found on www.bwcsa.co.za.

Two examples of drugs discovered without animal research are penicillin and the smallpox vaccine, by observant scientists. Non-animal testing methods are often more reliable, quicker and more cost-effective. These include cell, tissue and organ culture; micro-organisms such as bacteria; molecular research; studies with post-mortem tissues; computer simulations, including QSARs; population studies (epidemiology) and clinical research with human volunteers. Why are these not automatically available? *Why are students not insisting on using non animal methods of dissection and vivisection? Two studies show that students who use non animal-methods for dissection retain more knowledge and attain higher test results. Students have the right to choose a non animal method of study.*

Beauty Without Cruelty
Defending Animal Rights

