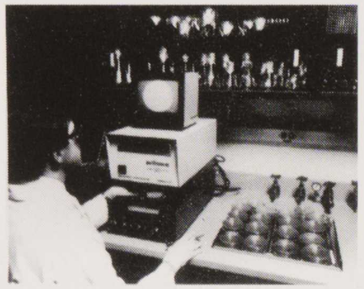
Alternatives



Human tissue, clinical studies, epidemiology, computers - we talk about these research methods but how have they really replaced the use of animals in research, testing and education.

The AAVS has been doing our part for several years. Through our Alternatives Fund we have:

- Developed monoclonal antibodies in cell cultures - helping to eliminate the use of rabbit and crab pyrogen tests.
- Designed computer-assisted simulations for surgical and diagnostic training - replacing the use of companion animals from shelters.
- Developed additional alternatives to the Draize eye irritancy test - saving thousands of rabbits each year.
- Developed cell culture tests to detect a chemical's potential to cause birth defects - eliminating the excuse for testing chemicals on pregnant animals.
- Provided the support necessary to incorporate a new process known as plastination into a veterinary school laboratory course in anatomy and cellular biology - helping to make obsolete the use of live animals.
- Provided a computer-interactive learning program to replace the animal bioassay method of determining protein quality and balance for human nutrition.

Campaigns

We initiated national and even international campaigns, but so often an effective effort can only be made at a local level. To this end we need our grassroots friends, and The AAVS is committed to their support. In the past year we have:

- Provided speakers at universities and colleges at the request of student groups throughout the country.
- Initiated and supported other groups in campaigns against vivisection during World Week for Laboratory Animals.
- Participated in television and radio talk shows, and debates.
- Participated in workshops and conferences sponsored by groups not only in the U.S. but also Canada.
- Spearheaded the drive against Thomas Gennarelli and his head bashing experiments at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Developed, as well as participated in, demonstrations against factory farming and fur, and supported the efforts of the Paradise Lost Campaign to halt the import of primates for research.
- Provided ALERTS to our members in targeted areas seeking their support for grassroots campaigns.

Education

The AAVS and its educational division, ANIMALEARN, are committed to educating both youth and adults about vivisection and other animal issues. Toward that end we:

- Offer free educational programs and resources to thousands of students each month.
- Provide courses on animal issues for both children and adults.
- Provide speakers, locally and nationally, on a range of topics.
- Train activists around the country and provide apprenticeships for those who wish to learn about and start their own educational programs.
- Hold intensive weekend seminars on vivisection and other animal issues as well as summer programs for young people interested in learning how to help animals.
- Publish monographs and literature on vivisection that are written by scientists, in terms the layperson can comprehend.
- Publish books for students, including our most recent, **So, You Love Animals**, by Zoe Weil.
- Hold contests for youths, including the Student Animal Activist Award and the Young Activist Campaign Contest, to instill incentives in students.