Animals Can't Cure

In attempts to induce addiction, experimenters routinely expose cats, dogs, nonhuman primates, sheep and various species of rodents to alcohol, cocaine, heroin, crack, PCP, morphine, barbiturates, amphetamines, marijuana, solvents, glues and other substances. When experimenters withhold the drugs the animals experience severe, unrelieved withdrawal symptoms including tremors, convulsions, hypothermia, vomiting and death. In addition, the animals are forced to endure:

- Direct injection of psychoactive toxic substances into their brains.
- Repeated, severe stress, induced behaviorally (by separation from their mothers), chemically (by injections of anxiety-causing drugs) and mechanically (by inescapable and prolonged electric shocks).
- Deprivation of food and water to induce consumption of toxic and poisonous substances.
- Highly concentrated toxic smokes and mists, without the possibility of escape.
- Removal of one or more portions of their brains.
- Physical immobilization for long periods without relief.

Why Animal-Based Studies Do Not Work

- Substance abuse is not natural in nonhuman animals. Creating artificial addiction can never mimic human addiction.
- Experimental results are often conflicting, varying even between strains of species.
- Animal experimenters ignore critically significant elements common in human addiction (e.g., social history, psychological factors, environment, medical problems, diet, previous drug history, etc.).
- Experimenters administer alcohol and other drugs to animals in concentrations that differ from human chemical abuse.
- Animals intensely dislike the taste of alcohol and must be forcibly taught, in stressful, artificial laboratory conditions, to self-administer addictive substances.
- Most drugs are eliminated from the body more rapidly in experimental animals than in humans.
- There are unique, species-specific differences in drug responses (e.g., morphine excites cats but depresses humans; anti-anxiety and anti-convulsive drugs in humans have an opposite effect in many animals).
- Species-specific differences in physiology and placental metabolism prevent any valid "animal models" of fetal alcohol syndrome or birth defects that are associated with maternal consumption of opiates, cocaine and marijuana.

What You Can Do

For Yourself and Others:

- The pain and suffering of both humans and animals caused by alcohol and other drug abuse are entirely preventable. Make a personal decision not to start, or with the help of treatment programs, to stop using alcohol and other drugs.
- If you know someone with an addiction problem, please help him or her to seek guidance from trained professionals. Look in your telephone directory for services offered in your area.
- Please share this information with others.
- Support The AAVS' efforts to stop inhumane and irrelevant addiction research. Contact us for membership or for further information to help the animals.

For Animals:

With the hundreds of millions of dollars wasted each year on animal addiction experiments, we could provide treatment currently unavailable for human addicts.

To stop this wasteful research, please write to the following:

Your Members of Congress:

Senator _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Representative _____
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Ask Them to:

- Redirect money wasted on animal addiction research to programs that will directly help people.
- Request an impartial analysis by the General Accounting Office and the Office of Technology Assessment (Congress' investigative arms) on the use of "animal models" in addiction research.

Also Write to:

Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

- Ask that irrelevant animal addiction experiments be phased out and replaced with programs directly beneficial to people: clinical research, prevention, education and treatment.