Animals Can't Cure

The EPA is responsible for determining the "safety" of compounds released into our environment, and most of the "safety" tests are performed on animals. These *animal studies further endanger humans* by providing misleading and often completely useless results. *Animal studies actually permit pollutants, dangerous to people but not to animals in labs, to be released into our environment.*

What Kinds of Experiments are Done?

- For compounds that will have possible effects on wildlife, animals such as mink, birds, and fish are subjected to lethal dose and lethal concentration tests (i.e. forced poisoning).
- Rats and mice are forced to ingest and/or inhale compounds in long-term experiments, to determine whether they cause cancer, birth defects, general illness, or death. The animals may bleed from their eyes, nose, rectum, or mouth, be unable to breathe, experience convulsions, paralysis or coma, and/or suffer from having their internal organs ulcerated, burned, or ruptured.
- Pesticide compounds for the control of invertebrates involve efficacy tests on livestock, poultry, fur- and wool-bearing animals, cats, dogs, and humans. Vertebrate control agents designed to kill or repel fish, amphibians, reptiles, moles, rats, and deer may include "LD_{100}" and "LC_{100}" tests to determine how much of the compound is needed to kill 100% of the animals in a test.

Animal-based toxicology and risk assessment tests such as these are widely criticized by toxicologists and government regulatory agencies as wildly inaccurate, but at the same time, humane and applicable alternatives are put on hold pending "validation."

Facts You Should Know

- The amount of discarded motor oil each year, which enters lakes, rivers, and streams, equals 35 Exxon Valdez spills.
- American farmers spray 1.5 billion pounds of pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides each year. Residues of these chemicals are found in 50% of our foods.
- Ground water in 23 states contains 17 different pesticides.
- 5,000 companies provide lawn care in the U.S. They use over 8 million pounds of pesticides, the most common of which are classified as "probable" human carcinogens.
- Dioxin and other "environmental estrogens" are associated with: arthritis, birth defects, immune system dysfunction, and both testicular and breast cancer. Major sources of dioxin include bleached milk cartons, bleached coffee filters, and most bleached paper.
- The average nursing U.S. mother has dioxin in her breast milk. (U.S. vegetarian mothers, however, have significantly less dioxin, DDT, and other toxic chemicals in their milk.)
- Commonly used house paint, especially oil-based, may contain up to 300 toxic substances (including carcinogens), and contribute 2% of the compounds responsible for severe air pollution.

Healthy People, Healthy Animals, Healthy Planet

Q. *What's the alternative to chemical pollution?*

A. We need to rely more on renewable, sustainable, and non-polluting energies, resources, and products. Each of us can choose non-harmful, biodegradable, and recyclable products over toxic chemicals.

Q. *What's the alternative to animal experiments?*

A. Computer models, in vitro (test tube) screens and human population studies (epidemiology) are the key to accurate, fast, and inexpensive risk studies which will prevent toxic products from reaching the marketplace.

Q. *What would happen if we chose safe, non animal-tested products, and sustainable, organic agriculture?*

A. We'd have less cancer, respiratory illness and other diseases among humans; we'd have less extinction of species; we'd have less suffering for animals used in laboratories; and we'd have a cleaner planet for our children.

If we clean up our planet by making environmentally responsible decisions in our daily life we can save thousands of animals both in laboratories and in the wild.

What You Can Do

For Yourself:

- Stop purchasing and using toxic products in your house or on your lawn.
- Educate yourself so that you will know what products to avoid.
- Buy organic groceries and eat lower on the food chain *for your health.*
- Use less energy and fewer products and save money.

For the Environment:

- Switch from disposable to reusable items wherever possible.
- Don't throw out toxic chemicals into the environment.
- Buy organic groceries and eat lower on the food chain *to save forests, water, and animal habitat.*
- Use less petroleum and petroleum products.

For Animals in Labs:

- Choose safe, non-toxic cleaners and products over animal-tested, toxic chemicals.
- Buy organic groceries and eat lower on the food chain *to save animals in labs from experiments designed to treat diet-related illnesses.*
- Write to: Administrator
  Environmental Protection Agency
  401 "M" Street, SW
  Washington, DC 20460

Ask the EPA to end its reliance on outdated and questionable animal toxicity tests and to accelerate its program to develop alternative methods and to use those which already exist. Also ask the EPA to place greater emphasis on the promotion of non-toxic pest control and agricultural methods.