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Animal experiments statistics total 3.6million - “a shameful legacy of science’s complacency about animal suffering”

Statistical summary

- 3.54 million animals used in experiments started in 2009
- 3.62 million animal experiments started in 2009
- 1% fall in experiments since 2008
- 7% fall in procedures on non-human primates involving 2,815 animals (16% decrease)
- 13% rise in procedures on GM animals
- 172 cats, 4,129 dogs, 3,564 pigs, 11,643 rabbits
- Genetic modification of animals now represents 41.8% of all procedures
- 1.5 million procedures for breeding to produce genetically modified and harmful mutants
- The recent trend of: 2.73 million animal experiments in 2002; 2.79 million animal experiments in 2003; 2.85 million in 2004; 2.9 million in 2005; 3.01 million in 2006; 3.2 million in 2007; 3.656 million in 2008 and 3.62 million in 2009.
- Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals – Great Britain, 2009, released in a summary, on the Home Office website on 28 July 2010. Available at <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/scientific1.html>

2.6 million mice and 0.32 million rats were used in laboratory experiments in Britain in 2009. HSI science policy officer Dr Gemma Buckland examined a selection of these rodent experiments to reveal that these small creatures can bear a huge burden of pain and distress.

Mouse experiments in UK laboratories published 2009 and 2010

- Mice at the London Research Institute were infected with vaccinia virus via nasal injection causing severe inflammation of the lungs, trachea and spleen leading to painful breathing and infection. No pain relief was given and mice started to die after four days with no mice surviving longer than eight days. **PLoS ONE 4(12):e8506. Conducted at the Cell Motility Laboratory, London Research Institute, UK.**
- Rats at the University of Cambridge had a tube implanted in their jugular vein and were trained to self-administer up to 150 doses of cocaine in a six hour period. Forced abstinence was encouraged by giving them random electric shocks to their paws on requesting more cocaine, to test impulsivity and relapse rates. **Biological**

Psychiatry 2009 May 15; 65(10):851-6. Conducted at the Behavioural and Clinical Neuroscience Institute, University of Cambridge, UK.

- Baby mice at University College London had part of their eye (cornea) removed and transplanted cornea grafted to their eyes. Kept alive for 28 days, most of the mice suffered graft rejection resulting in painful inflammation. **British Journal of Ophthalmology, 2010; 94; 368-371. Conducted at the Department of Ocular Immunology, UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, London, UK.**
- Mice at Imperial College London had the painful symptoms of osteoarthritis induced by having their ligaments cut causing joint destabilisation and substantial cartilage loss. Researchers assessed the animals' pain by observing hind-limb weight distribution (mice do not put their full weight onto an OA limb due to the pain). The operation slowly leads to an acute pain phase a week after surgery and then a chronic pain stage from around 12 weeks of surgery. The mice demonstrated significant cartilage loss and inflammation. No pain relief was given for the 16 weeks post-surgery. **Pain. 2010 May;149(2):386-92. Epub 2010 Mar 29. Conducted at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Imperial College London, UK.**

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