

**Submission  
No 298**

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF PRIMATES AND OTHER ANIMALS  
IN MEDICAL RESEARCH IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

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The obvious reason for banning animal experimentation is because it causes needless suffering to sentient animals. Australian prevention of cruelty to animals laws protect mainly companion animals and native animals. How can that be? Cruelty is cruelty, regardless of the animal upon which it is perpetrated. In a supposedly civilised, caring country, which I believe Australia to be, any animal cruelty is to be abhorred.

Other important reasons to consider are as follows:

The benefits to human beings are not proven. Precise results from animal experiments may result in clinical trials of biologically faulty or even harmful substances, thereby exposing patients to unnecessary risk and wasting scarce research resources. There is a lack of transparency and accountability in an industry that is funded by tax payers. I do not want my taxes funding cruel animal experiments.

The National Institute of Health reports that 95 out of every 100 drugs that pass animal tests fail in humans. Studies published in prestigious medical journals have shown time and again that animal testing is bad science and wastes lives—both animal and human—and precious resources by trying to infect animals with diseases that they would never normally contract.

Animal experiments prolong the suffering of humans waiting for effective cures because the results mislead experimenters and squander precious money, time and other resources that could be spent on human-relevant research. Animal experiments are so worthless that up to half of them are never even published.

Most experiments on animals are not relevant to human health anyway, they do not contribute meaningfully to medical advances, and many are undertaken simply out of curiosity and do not even pretend to hold promise for curing illnesses. The only reason people are under the misconception that these experiments help humans is because of false information distributed by the media, experimenters, universities, and lobbying groups.

At least, when animals may have to be used, and the end result is not euthanasia, such animals could be rehomed. Why is that not already the case? Many animal welfare organisations would be very happy to assist in such cases, particularly with dogs and cats.

Fortunately, a wealth of cutting-edge non-animal research methodologies promises a brighter future for both animal and human health and for me they cannot come soon enough.