

Submission
No 302

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 12 March 2022

Partially
Confidential

Medical experimentation on animals is not only absolutely cruel but also one of the most wasted uses of taxpayer funded research money. Literature clearly states that the majority of animal experimentation does not translate into human advances. How can it when we do not possess the same anatomy and physiology as mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits, pigs, baboons, etc... Therefore, it is obvious that this kind of research is a blatant waste of money, time and above all, unnecessary cruelty inflicted on sentient beings!

I am a researcher and have witnessed first hand this kind of cruelty and waste of money. I have never experimented on animals and after what I have witnessed behind closed doors, never would. If the public actually knew what went on they would be horrified. Researchers and ethics committees can tell the public and the funding bodies whatever it is they want to hear. They may even be able to justify some of their actions in their own heads, but ultimately there is no denying that animal experimentation is cruel and made worse by the fact that it is pointless. How is it not a blatant conflict of interest to have high ranking members of animal ethics committees being those same people that are lead researchers conducting animal experiments? How can they possibly make non-biased decisions and put the welfare of animals first?

Research facilities stating that animals are well cared for and stimulated is so far from the truth. Putting a few toilet rolls in a cage and calling it enrichment is ridiculous. A few measly toys, if that, does not mimic the natural environment of an animal, especially when it spends its life in a cage in an artificially lit and air-conditioned room, before being subjected to painful and stressful research that is of no point, and then it is eventually 'sacrificed'. This is the ridiculous word that researchers use for killing an animal.

The escape of three baboons in Sydney in 2020 has put the issue of animal experimentation and its legitimacy in the forefront of many people's minds. The research being conducted on these poor animals does not translate into any useful data for humans. I know this first hand. I also know that the researchers involved were more concerned about saving face than they were about the animals, it was all a major inconvenience to them.

The animal cruelty that goes on in this sector is heartbreaking and needs to stop. There is a reason the true extent of animal research is kept under wraps!