**Resolved: Nearly all animal testing should be banned**

**PRO**

**My partner and I affirm the resolution: Nearly all animal testing should be banned.**

Before proceeding with the case, we would like to define terms relevant to the topic.

**“Animal Testing”**

* According to the Humane Society, October 2012, “Animal Testing”is ‘any procedures performed on living animals for purposes of research into basic biology and diseases, assessing the effectiveness of new medicinal pro ducts, and testing the human health and/or environmental safety of consumer and industry products such as cosmetics, household cleaners, food additives, pharmaceuticals, and industrial/agro-chemicals.’

**Contention 1: Alternatives to Testing**

**Animal Testing is Terrible: Millions of animals are being killed in testing.**

* According to People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), August 2021, “more than 100 million animals—including mice, rats, frogs, dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, monkeys, fish, and birds—are killed in U.S. laboratories for biology lessons, medical training, curiosity-driven experimentation, and chemical, drug, food, and cosmetics testing each year.”[[1]](#endnote-1)

**The Topic solves: Banning all animal testing will be the final push to use alternatives.**

* According to the Associated Press News, February 2020, "California, Nevada, and Illinois saw new laws take effect in 2020 that ban animal testing for cosmetic use. Products can be applied to synthetic tissue to determine whether they cause skin irritation, damage, sensitivity or other issues. Since these alternatives exist, there is no reason to allow animal testing to continue.”
* According to Emma Bryce, a Live Science contributor, May 2019, “Scientists have started growing cultured human cells on scaffolds embedded on plastic chips, forming tiny structures that mimic the functioning of our heart, liver, kidneys and lungs. If we ban animal testing, researchers can focus on developing alternatives like these cells grown on plastic chips.”

**Impact: Banning animal testing will save animals**

* According to People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), March 2015, “Over 100 million animals are burned, crippled, poisoned, and abused in US labs every year. Labs that use mice, rats, birds, reptiles and amphibians are exempted from the minimal protections under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Even animals that are protected under the AWA can be abused and tortured. And the law doesn’t require the use of valid alternatives to animals, even if they are available.”
* According to the Humane Society, March 2015, “Registration of a single pesticide requires more than 50 experiments and the use of as many as 12,000 animals. Banning animal testing will save MILLIONS of animals on an annual basis not to mention the countless others that will be saved from unnecessary torture and abuse.”

**Contention 2: Animal Rights**

**Animal testing is bad: Animal testing ignores animal rights.**

* According to The Humane League, December 2020, “Animal rights are moral principles grounded in the belief that non-human animals deserve the ability to live as they wish, without being subjected to the desires of human beings.”
* According to Tom Regan, a philosophy professor at North Carolina University, January 2020, “Animals have a basic moral right to respectful treatment. This inherent value is not respected when animals are reduced to being mere tools in a scientific experiment. Animals are not allowed to participate in experiments, which is unfair to animals as they will still experience pain and may die.”

**The Topic Solves: Banning animal testing ensures that ALL animals are protected from testing.**

* Policies such as the Animal Welfare Act, June 2019, exclude roughly 95 percent of the animals tested upon—such as rats, mice, birds, fish, and reptiles—and provides only minimal protections for the rest. As the Humane League stated in March 2019, “A ban on animal testing is crucial to ensuring that all animals are treated equally and not subject to cruel testing. Regulations claiming to protect animals are not enough.”

**Impact: By banning animal testing, more people will accept animal rights.**

* According to Cruelty-Free International, January 2016, “following a cosmetic ban on animal testing in New Zealand in 2015, the Cosmetics, Toiletry and Fragrance Association said that they did not need animal tests. Banning all animal testing is the first move to make companies and countries recognize animal rights, as it is clear they will not stop on their own.”

**PRO**

**RESPONSES TO CON CONTENTIONS**

**Response to Contention 1: Research**

* According to Malin Masterton with Vlaams Institute of Biotechnology, August 2017, “Alternatives to animal testing can be studies using computer simulations or in vitro cell culture techniques. In vitro techniques take place in a test tube or culture dish instead of on a living being. Both methods avoid animal testing while still getting the necessary data.”
* According to the Law Times Journal team, August 2017, “Even if a product harms an animal, it can and is still sold out in the market to be used by humans. This means that the findings from animal testing do not help determine whether products are used. In addition, it could mean that products determined to be safe for animals may not be safe for humans. Therefore, animal testing is not helpful for either animals or humans.”

**Response to Contention 2: Education**

* According to For Humane Science, July 2019, “There are alternatives to learning how living beings work, even for people training to work with animals. For example, one alternative is to have animal researchers learn through videos or other non-animal alternatives. Then, researchers could begin work on animals under the close supervision of a mentor. This is

like how doctors train to work on humans.”

* Cruelty-Free International states, “Both healthy and diseased tissues donated from human volunteers can provide a more relevant way of studying human biology and disease than animal testing. Rather than using frogs or other animals to get students excited about science, schools can use donated tissues to study how organs work.” (August 2021)
* According to the Humane Society, May 2021, “Animals have rights. Humans can opt-in to programs like being organ donors, but animals do not have a choice.”

**CON**

**My partner and I negate the topic: Nearly all animal testing should be banned.**

We agree with the definition of “Animal Testing” proposed by the PRO team.

**Contention 1: Research**

**Animal testing is good: Animal testing benefits both animals and humans.**

* According to Stanford Medicine, January 2021, “United States Federal laws require that non-human animal research occur to show the safety and efficacy of new treatments before any human research will be allowed to be conducted. Not only do we humans benefit from this research and testing, but hundreds of drugs and treatments developed for human use are now routinely used in veterinary clinics, helping animals live longer healthier lives.”
* According to Vlaams Institute of Biotechnology, July 2021, “Due to the complexity of diseases, animal testing provides crucial information on how diseases react in humans. This means animals are essential in the research process as many diseases are a complex interaction between various components, cells, and tissues, in a three-dimensional structure. This interaction and communication cannot always be copied in cell cultures.”

**Impact on Animals: Animal testing is a crucial way to develop advanced medicines and treatments**

* According to an article written by R. Scott Nolen, American Veterinary Medical Association, January 2018, "Animal research played a key part in the creation of vaccines that prevent distemper, rabies, and feline leukemia. In addition to technologies like MRI scans for pets and advanced surgical care to treat joint and ligament problems often found in dogs and cats. Without animal testing, veterinarians would be unable to save our beloved pets.”
* According to the National Academies Press from the Committee on the Use of Animals in Research, January 1991, “Therapies for cholera in hogs, and diagnostic and preventive techniques for tuberculosis in cattle are all now available because of animal research. Because of these discoveries, animals live longer and healthier lives.”

**Impact on Humans: If animal testing is banned, then life-saving human vaccines may not be developed, causing many to die.**

* **Polio**: In 1908, two doctors used extracts from the spinal cord of a boy who had died from polio to replicate the disease in monkeys. These experiments allowed the disease to be transmitted from monkey to monkey, providing an invaluable model of the disease that could be studied…after 40 years of research using mice, rats and monkeys, polio vaccines were developed and used to treat the disease. According to the World Health Organization, 2021, "Polio cases have decreased over 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350,000 cases to 175 reported cases in 2019 due to animal testing."
* **Ebola:** An article written by Eva Maciejewski from the Foundation for Biomedical Research reported that “Ervebo, the first FDA-approved vaccine for the prevention of the Ebola virus disease, was announced on December 19, 2019. Researchers used mice and non-human primates as test subjects to determine the effectiveness and found success.”
* **COIVD-19:** According to Beatrice Dupuy with the Associated Press, November 2020, “Due to the urgent need for a vaccine in a surging pandemic, Pfizer and Moderna were given approval to simultaneously test their vaccines on animals while they were conducting Phase 1 trials on humans. The vaccines were tested on mice and macaques. By being approved to test vaccines on both animals and humans, Pfizer and Moderna were able to speed up the development of the COVID-19 vaccine.”

**Contention 2: Education**

**Animal testing is good: Animal testing advances education and gets students excited about science.**

* According to Animal-Ethics.org, January 2021, “In the United States, it has been estimated that nearly six million vertebrates are used for dissection each year, of which half are frogs. Biology classes having the option for students to dissect frogs and other animals allows students to look at what makes up a living being and learn the different parts that makeup animals.”
* According to David Evans, Executive Director of the National Science Teachers Association, March 2016, "Experimenting with the 'real thing' is important because it allows students to feel what internal organs are like. Without these opportunities, students may never fully grasp how the body works.”

**Impact: If all animal testing is banned, many jobs that use animal testing for human and animal benefits will no longer exist.**

* According to the Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research, “Laboratory Animal Science professionals share a love for animals and a quest for medical discovery. They care for animals, help drive medical discoveries, and work to advance human and animal health.”[[2]](#endnote-2) Without animal testing, a student would not know these jobs exist or will be able to get experience with them. This will prevent essential discoveries that benefit humans and animals.
* According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, August 2021, “Without animal testing, it will be harder to develop new methods to replace animals. Our association already endorses the '3 Rs'… replacement of animals with non-animal methods wherever feasible; reduction of the number of animals consistent with sound experimental design; and refinement of experimental methods to eliminate or reduce animal pain and distress.”

**CON**

**RESPONSES TO PRO CONTENTIONS**

**Response to Contention 1: Alternatives to Testing**

* According to Liz Harley, staff writer with Understanding Animal Research, September 2014, “We must sacrifice a few to save the many. Animal testing is a necessary evil in order to save a more significant number of animals. One such example is the creation of insulin, which was discovered through testing on twelve dogs. Another is the development of an oral vaccine through testing on 80 badgers. Following testing, tissue samples are collected, and the animals are humanely killed. Overall, animal testing has been conducted in a way that minimizes the cruelty to animals and benefits many animals in the future.”
* According to the Food and Drug Administration, August 2020, “The United States supports and adheres to the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, and policies governing animal testing, including the Animal Welfare Act and the Public Health Service Policy of Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. These policies ensure that any animal testing follows strict rules that minimize the number of animals harmed.”
* According to Stanford Medicine, January 2021, "Nothing, so far, has been discovered that can be a substitute for the complex functions of a living, breathing, whole-organ system with pulmonary and circulatory structures like those in humans. We must find alternatives before we can ban all animal testing.”

**Response to Contention 2: Animal Rights**

* According to Juan Carlos Marvizon at Speaking of Research.com, December 2016, “Animal testing is crucial to ensure the welfare of animals and the health of humans. Many more animals and humans could die without testing on a few animals.”
* According to Robert Streiffer, Professor of Philosophy and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 2020, “There is not yet public support for animal rights. At an animal activist conference in Melbourne, Australia, "35% of those considering chicken cases said it was wrong to kill one chicken to save the many, whereas fully 85% of those considering human cases decided it was wrong to kill one human to save the many. This proves that people think of animals and humans differently.”
* Juan Carlos Marvizon at Speaking of Research.com, December 2016, asks, "What sense does it make to give animals something that they do not know that they lack? The fact that we can consider animal rights, but animals cannot consider human rights is why animal testing should be allowed for worthwhile causes like the development of medicines.”

1. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)