



Highly Commended

**Science Writing**

**Year 9-10**

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Government  
of South Australia

Department for Education



# Should Animals Be Used For Research?

## Introduction



Animals were first used for research in 500 B.C. and have been used ever since, (Beonchip 2021). The debate for whether animals should be used for research has gone on for many years now. This infographic will cover reasons for and against animal research.



## Reasons For Animal Research

- Animal testing contributes to life-saving cures and treatments such as smallpox.
- Animal testing is crucial to make sure vaccines are safe like when scientists were creating a vaccine for coronavirus.
- There is no alternative to test these products apart from humans because of their complex living systems.
- Animals themselves sometimes benefit from the results of animal testing. Vaccines tested on animals have saved millions of animals that would've otherwise died from rabies, leukemia, or other diseases (American physiology society, 2022)
- Animal research is already highly regulated and ethical considerations and laws are put in place to protect animals from mistreatment.
- Animals often make better research subjects than human beings because they have shorter life cycles.
- Laboratory mice only live for two to three years so researchers can study the effects of genetic manipulation or treatments.
- Cosmetics and health care products must be tested on animals to ensure their safety. The average American uses an average of 12 personal care products per day, so product safety is important (ProCon. 2020).

## Research Against Animal Research

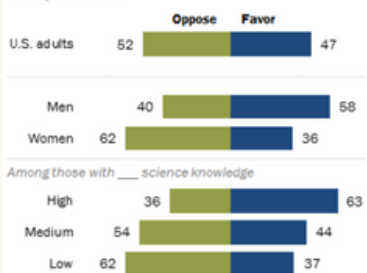
- Animal testing is cruel as they are exposed to experiments like force-feeding, food and water deprivation and other things that are still deemed ok by scientists.
- Scientists can test vaccines on human volunteers but often don't even after it's proven that it is safe. When a human gives consent, they can be used for testing.
- Alternative testing methods now exist that can now replace the need for animals in research. You can do this by testing on human cells or tissue in a petri dish (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2022).
- Drugs that pass animal tests are not necessarily safe. For example, the 1950s sleeping pill thalidomide, which caused 10000 babies to be born with severe deformities. Animal tests showed that this drug was safe. The drug went on the cause more than 27,000 heart attacks and sudden cardiac deaths before being pulled from the market (Foundation for Biomedical Research 2022).
- Some animal testing can be misleading and can sometimes be fine on animals but bad on humans or bad on animals but fine on humans. Aspirin, for example, is dangerous for some animal species but fine for humans.
- There is an increasing demand for cruelty-free products. More than one-third of women-only buy cosmetics from brands that do not use animal testing (ProCon, 2020).

## Conclusion

48% of Americans believed that animals should be used for research while 52% say they shouldn't. Men tend to favour animals being used for research more than females. those with higher science knowledge tend to favour animal research compared to those with low science knowledge. (Strauss, 2018).

### Americans divided over whether animals should be used in scientific research

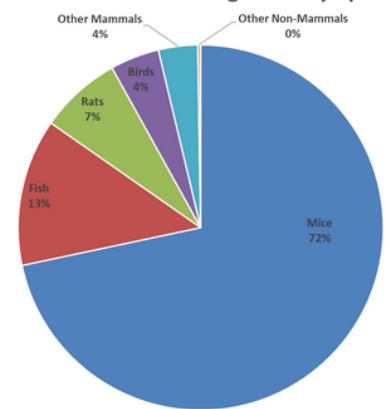
% of U.S. adults who say they \_\_\_ the use of animals in scientific research



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. Source: Survey conducted April 23-May 6, 2018. \*Most Americans Accept Genetic Engineering of Animals That Benefits Human Health, but Many Oppose Other Uses

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### Animals used in the United Kingdom\* by Species in 2020



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# Oliphant Science Awards: Science Writing, should animals be used for research?

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