

Animal Testing



Though we don't often think about it, product are tested on animals every day. Cosmetics, hair care products, and medications are just a few of the products we have been routinely tested on animals for many decades. Animal testing is essential in order to make sure that products are safe for humans, and has been proven effective, for instance, in creating a vaccine for polio. But animal testing is often cruel, and if people were more aware of exactly what goes on, it might be easier to get laws passed to stop it.

Animals endure a variety of different kinds of tests. Rabbits are frequently used for an eye irritancy test. The rabbit is placed in a neck restraint so that only its head is sticking out. Its eyelids are clipped open to keep the chemical being tested from being rubbed out of the rabbit's eye. The chemical is applied to the eye, and the rabbit is observed anywhere from three to eighteen days, at which point the rabbit is usually blind. Other common side effects are swollen or bleeding eyes. According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Rabbits have been known to break their necks while trying to escape from the restraints.

Another test cited by PETA is the Acute Toxicity Test or the Poisoning Test, done to determine how much of a certain chemical is required to kill an animal. Chemicals are injected into the veins, stomach, nasal cavities, and other organs. Reactions have been known to include bleeding from the mouth, eyes, or nose, break outs, or strenuous breathing. Based on these results, scientists conclude whether or not

the chemical should be deemed is safe for human exposure.

The LD50 test, or the Lethal Dose 50 test, continues until at least fifty percent of the animals in the experiment die. Then the scientists look at the dosage amount of the chemical that has been given to the animals and determine that that amount is dangerous for humans to ingest or be exposed to.

Not only are these tests cruel to the animals, they don't even always yield valid results. Drugs do not always have the same effects in humans and animals. Additionally, the dosages that are given to animals per pound of body weight usually far exceed the amount that any human would take or be exposed to. According to ancient Greek physicians, and this still holds true today, a good test subject should have the same neurobiological mechanisms, the same symptoms, the same treatment responses, and the same assumed origin of disease. Some animals may be able to meet some of these criteria, but there are no animals that meet all four.

1. What is the central idea of the passage?
2. Which of the following persuasive strategies is NOT used by the author?
 - A. Examples
 - B. Quoting experts
 - C. Statistics
3. On a separate sheet, summarize the article.