



Animal Experimentation at UCLA

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 Neurobiology, Psychiatry, Medicine, Molecular & Med Pharmacology, Physiology,
 Microbiology & Immunology and Surgery Departments

1976 – 2007



Unbelievably Sad but True

The following table outlines some of the many current experiments conducted at UCLA by researchers in various departments. In nearly all of these cases, the number of animals utilized, the exact details of the experiment, details related to anticipated or actual benefits toward human health, or the ultimate fate of the animals was not mentioned. These studies are also *very* specific to *human* brain activities, sleep patterns/disorders, social behavior, psychological problems and drug addiction. Therefore, it is difficult to validate or justify the necessity for these studies, particularly since there are so many advanced human studies and superior non-animal alternatives available today...

Animal(s)	Length	Researcher	Official Reason(s)	Summary
Cats	5 years to 29 years	Chase, Harper, Yamury	Study the way mechanisms that control REM sleep are degraded in old age, sleep disorders, inhibitory motor control during active sleep; heart, respiration and variation in breathing/blood pressure during REM sleep; generation and maintenance of REM sleep.	Involve spinal cord interneurons, electron microscopy and brain experimentation/surgery to determine why a cat twitches in its sleep; disruption of a sleeping cat's motor control to study neurotransmitters and brain stem behavior.
Cats and dogs	4 years to 24 years	Siegel	Compare chronic diseases to narcolepsy in humans, how unipolar depression, Alzheimer's, hallucinations, depression and schizophrenia impact REM sleep.	Involve study of neurotransmitters/ brain and motor neuron activity in large group of animals.
Mice and rabbits	5 years to 10 years	Grovit-Ferbas, Miller	Search for HIV vaccine and study lyme disease "similar to those in human infection."	Involve injections with disease cultures and surgically implanting chambers to create lesions and infections.
Monkeys including vervet and rhesus macaque	2 years to 25 years	Schlag, Freimer, Fairbanks, Melega, Fuster	Phenomena of mislocalization (challenges to visual processing including illusions); understand wide range of human diseases and traits, complex behaviors; impulsivity, psychological, psychiatric and social problems including conduct disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity, substance abuse, antisocial personality disorder, criminality and violence; behavioral consequences of methamphetamine (crystal meth) abuse; behavior, reasoning and language, how active short-term memory and neural information processing is impaired in mental disorders; and more.	Involve brain surgery and microelectrodes on trained monkeys; maternal behavior, sex, social behavior and genetic mapping studies; 725 vervet monkeys studied from infancy to adulthood (genetics, environmental influences and neurobiological/ neurotransmitter activities); and drug addiction/withdrawal behavior studies.

Questions and Answers

Summarized from: www.navs.org/faq/faq_main.cfm?sectionID-FAQs

Q Why research on animals if we're required to test on humans?

A Researchers already rely on healthy human volunteers to study new treatments and medicines, with strict guidelines that protect the volunteers. This is called clinical pharmacology. Animal research diverts our attention and funds from helping humans.

Q Why is animal modeled research an invalid way to learn about disease?

A Imposing disease symptoms in an animal during an experiment cannot adequately predict or duplicate human disease. In order for a model to be scientifically valuable, it must exhibit the same symptoms, the same assumed origin, the same neurobiological mechanisms, and the same treatment response. Although certain animals may have some of these characteristics in some instances, no animal consistently fulfills all four criteria. This is because animals and humans are different in many ways – anatomically (body structure), physiologically (cells, organs), and metabolically (the way substances and chemicals are handled by a body)."

"The biomedical profession has come to rely on nonhuman animals as subjects. It is an institution, a bureaucracy in its own right. They have no idea what they would do if they were forced to empty the cases in their labs...We are slowly recruiting more and more individuals from the ranks of medicine, veterinary medicine and other scientific fields with whom to refute the trite assertions of the vivisection industry."

An ex-vivisector

Questions and Answers (Cont'd.)

Q Has animal research ever contributed to medical knowledge?

A History has shown that animal experimentation has not helped people nearly as much as it has actually thwarted progress in the life sciences. Some of our most significant breakthroughs in medicine have been made without animals. In the medical field, it has been demonstrated repeatedly that pharmaceutical drugs and surgical techniques developed using animals cannot be reliably applied to humans. In the field of psychology, most of what we've learned through animal experimentation is about animal, not human, behavior. By depending too much on animal experiments, we are potentially missing many more paths to effective treatment.

Q If animal research is so ineffective, why do scientists continue to do it?

A One reason animal experimentation continues is profitability. Consider just how many corporations, institutions and other entities profit from animal research: scientists, physicians, hospitals, regulation agency bureaucrats, pharmaceutical companies, medical conglomerates, politicians, animal breeders and vendors, animal equipment manufacturers, lawyers, reporters and the news media, to name a few. Other companies, such as those that manufacture cosmetics and personal care and household products, which may or may not pose human health problems, use animal testing to secure themselves against possible lawsuits. The interdependency of these entities is finely tuned: the



more animal experiments the researcher does, the more articles he or she publishes. The more articles published, the more grant money is received. The more grant money, the more money the university or research facility receives. The more money the university or research facility receives, the more animal research it can do. The more animal research data big business can obtain quickly, the faster it can take products to market without fear of litigation, and the more products it can sell. The more big business sells, the more money there is available for advertising. And advertising revenues support the news media. Anytime animal research is questioned, there is an outcry from each vested interest group, who move quickly to shore up their position.

Q Where do laboratories obtain the animals they use for biomedical research?

A Generally, animals used in research are the result of years of selective breeding, which ensures that animals are uniform in size and other characteristics, and that they share a common genetic background.

Most purpose-bred animals are young and small in size. Researchers obtain purpose-bred animals through animal breeders and biological supply houses. Genetically engineered mice and rats—animals that have, through gene manipulation, been bred to have or lack certain characteristics—are also available. Often, researchers raise their own animal subjects in breeding colonies on the laboratory's premises. Where certain research projects demand a more genetically diverse population, researchers often turn to the local pound. By

law, scientists are allowed to procure animals from pounds for research purposes. However, some municipalities, responding to the concerns of anti-vivisectionists and other animal advocates, have enacted pound seizure laws, which prohibit researchers from taking animals from pounds and shelters. In such cases, researchers turn to Class B dealers, who turn a profit by selling to researchers animals they have acquired from their owners, from pounds and from other dealers.



"Academic institutions benefit from animal research by receiving grants from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and other federal agencies." (As does the medical business, which revolves more around money than your wellbeing.)"

NAVS

animals for training doctors. All but two

the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD and the University of Colorado, Denver. In 1986, the American Medical Student Association adopted a resolution supporting a student's right to choose an alternative activity to dissection and to be free from penalties or faculty intimidation when they refuse to dissect.

Q Which U.S. medical schools do not use animals to train their medical students?

A To date, 85 of 126 U.S. medical schools have discontinued the practice of using

medical schools in the entire country offer their students non-animal alternatives—

The Alternatives

- **Epidemiology:** Investigations into history and habits of peoples with medical conditions for preventative purposes.
- **Genetic Studies:** Human DNA research conducted by scientists to determine which genes predispose humans to birth defects, cancer and other diseases
- **Clinical Studies:** Observations and analyses of patients, done by doctors
- **Prevention:** Dietary and health changes of patients can help many conditions, especially heart-related
- **Autopsies:** Using human cadavers helps understand disease as well as provides opportunities for operating techniques
- **In Vitro Studies:** Human cell, blood and tissue cultures that can be used for testing
- **Computer and Mathematical Modeling:** A new field which uses complex software to simulate biochemical reactions and has helped recently with breast cancer, epilepsy and more
- **Recombinant DNA Technology:** Correcting or altering some genetic traits by inserting new or different genes into existing DNA strands, the study of genetics (should be directed towards human uses, not animal)
- **Post Marketing Drug Surveillance:** Not currently done, but if practiced, observations of how newly released drugs are affecting people would provide invaluable information
- **Technology:** New technologies have yet to be fully tapped for their potential to help humans and eliminate non-useful animal research
- **Eg:** X-ray crystallography, synchrotron radiation, neutron sources, nuclear magnetic resonance, CAT scans, PET scans, ultrasound, single molecule spectroscopies, blood-gas analysis machines, blood chemistry analysis machines, monitoring devices, electrocardiograms, electroencephalograms and more

Summarized from: <http://www.curedisease.com/Altern1.html>