

Animal Testing

Debate topic

Animal testing for scientific and commercial purposes

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Animal testing is a lot cheaper than using other techniques.- Testing on animals is safer because you find the dangers and benefits.- Animal testing saves lives by seeing what happens when they are used.- Research progresses much faster with animal testing than other things.- People get to see if the product is safe or not.- Animal testing is more accurate than computer simulations at the current state of computing power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Testing on animals is immoral, and laws don't protect them for scientific and commercial testing and research.- Animals might react differently than humans will to some things.- Animals sometimes aren't treated very well and can suffer.- Thousands if not millions of animals die as a result of animal testing.

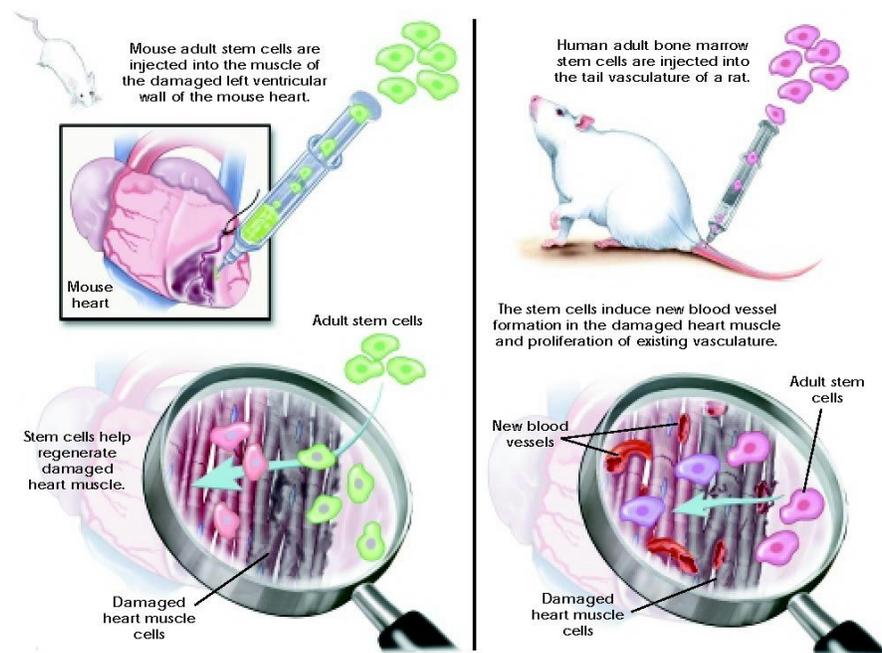
My opinion is that animal testing should continue, but it should not be taken lightly. The animals in testing should be given painkillers and made as comfortable as possible. Otherwise it is inhumane.

There has been a large decrease in some types of cancer like breast cancer. This is largely owed to animal testing and getting a better understanding of the tumor. Animal testing has also helped to increase life expectancy by about 10.7%. That may not seem big but that is fairly significant.

Not only has animal testing improved treatment for just cancer, it has also been used to find a cure for Parkinsons Disease. In 2002 it was found in testing animals that it is in fact possible to reverse Parkinson's Disease. This disease is caused by the decreased amount of dopamine in the brain. This in turn can negatively affect motor function. So using animals to test this on a drug called levodopa. When ingested this drug turns into

dopamine in the brain. Currently there is no cure to Parkinsons Disease but it is able to be slowed. That is a discovery credited almost completely to animal testing.

Some of the achievements of animal testing have been in cancer research, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and the list goes on. Even out of the death of animals people have to see past that and look at what it's done for them and the world.



In 1966 the U.S. government mandated that all animals will be protected under the AWA (Animal Welfare Act). This law protects animals from harsh treatment in animal research. However, this law excludes certain types of animals, such as lab-bred rats, mice and birds. It also excludes cold-blooded animals such as reptiles, amphibians and fish and animals used for agricultural research purposes. This includes pigs and cows. The law sets a minimal benchmark for labs to include certain conditions for the animals to live. As of 2002 small warm-blooded animals

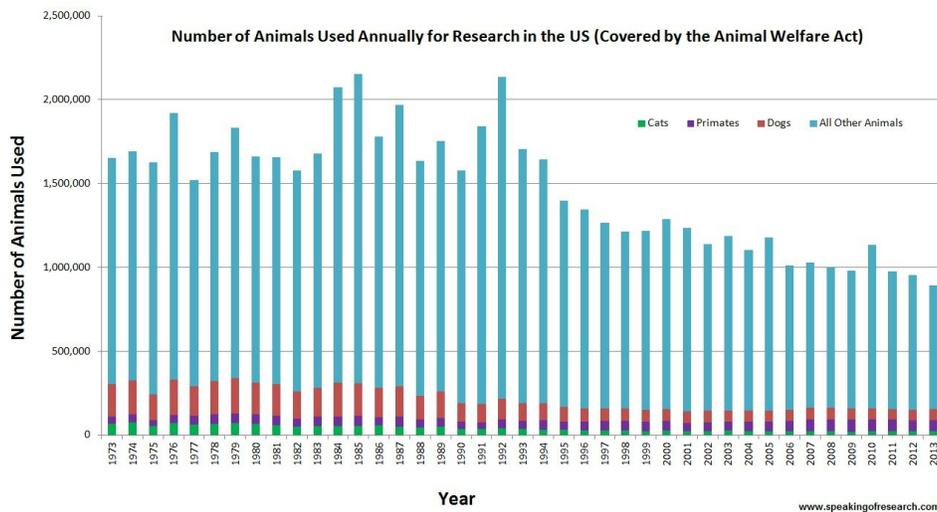
like rats, birds, etc. were excluded from the AWA. This is because they were classified under the definition of animal. This excludes them from most regulations. This can be due in part to the influence of Rene Descartes, who said animals have no consciousness.

In today's society it is widely accepted that animals have a sense of awareness and feel pain. It is for this reason that people have started to protect animals

The AWA

Animal Welfare Act of 1966 intended to regulate the transport, sale and handling of dogs, cats, guinea pigs, nonhuman primates, hamsters and rabbits intended for use for research or other purposes.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_Welfare_Act_of_1966



<https://speakingofresearch.files.wordpress.com/2008/03/trend-in-animal-testing-in-the-us.jpg>

Over the past 30 to 40 years there has been a general decrease in the population of animals used in testing. Using the graph above you can see that the populations have been fairly steady up until about 1993. At that

time the amount of animals used in testing has drastically decreased to a little over half of what it previously was. This is around the same time that a lot of animal protection laws were put into place and people were starting to take notice of animal testing. The general trend though of the graph is pointing towards the number of animals being used is decreasing.

There are pros and cons to everything. There are even pros to animal testing. Some of the cons of animal testing include the treatment of the animals being tested on. For a lot of the animals that are used the environments that they are in are not ideal in the least. Some of the habitats that the animals stay in do not have very good ventilation and are small. Due to new laws though the conditions that specimens are kept in have improved. Not all places treat animals poorly though. Most labs in America and all over the world want the animals in peak condition so as not to have illnesses that interfere with tests. Other cons include that animals have rights and experimentation on them is not something that the animals want. Especially with primates there are laws that mandate how the animals are kept and to keep them in a good psychological condition as well.

Some labs don't do this though. Animals are tested on all the time without painkillers and are dissected upon while they are still alive. This is immoral and I agree that it should stop, but you also have to look at the other side of it all.

There are not only cons to animal testing but pros as well just like everything. One of the pros of animal testing is that there is an incredible amount of potential involved with creating medical supplies. With the current state of compute's and what they can do animal testing is more reliable. In animal testing labs test new medicines that can benefit the sick and diseased. Species like mice are used to test cancer treatment and vaccines for sickness. Most people think that the cons of animal testing outweigh the pros of it. To those people I say that I can see where they are

coming from. Nothing should ever be put through agonising pain for somebody else's gain.

Debate Results

The results that I found on people's opinion on this topic were interesting. I found that out of a group of about 15 people, it was half and half. Some people thought that animal testing is a good thing and some thought it was a bad thing. The reasoning varied. Some of the main ideas told in the debate were things like, animal testing isn't accurate enough and that it is immoral. Supporting evidence was that animals aren't a very good representation of the human form and how it reacts to certain things.

Another argument was that most of the things that we wear on our bodies today, chemical-wise, were tested first on animals. This is so that people don't get harmed by dangerous substances that could hurt you. It was also said that animal testing has pushed medical research farther and farther into advancements that wouldn't be possible without these tests.

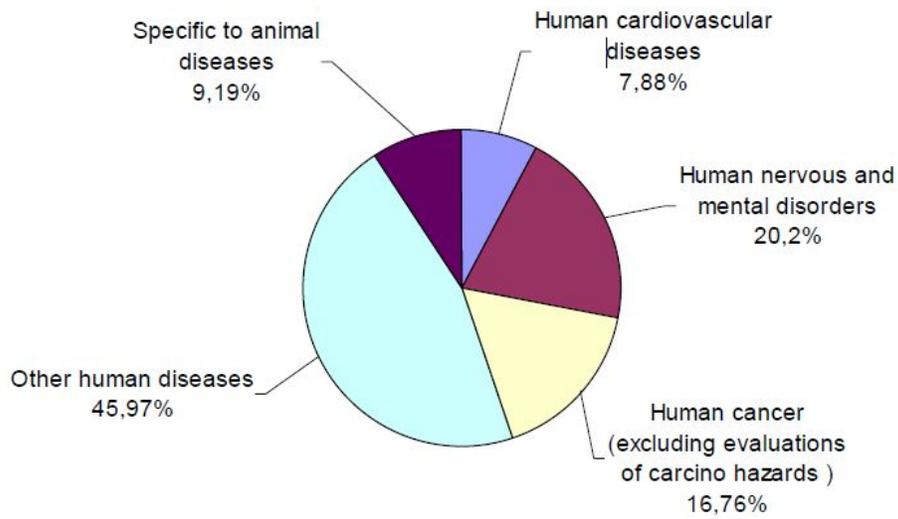
So all in all I found that each side has a good amount of evidence present that should be taken into consideration. It is just an opinion thing and people can choose what side they want.

The process that I took to create these findings with the 15 people started when I wrote down the topics on a wipe board. The opinions of the people were showed by what side of the room they walked to. Right was against or disagree, and left for agree and promote. I recorded the findings and came to a conclusion. 50% of the people that I talked with disagreed and the other 50% agreed. This doesn't correspond to what graphs about the American populace think. Only about a third of Americans say no to this and the other two thirds think animal testing should continue.

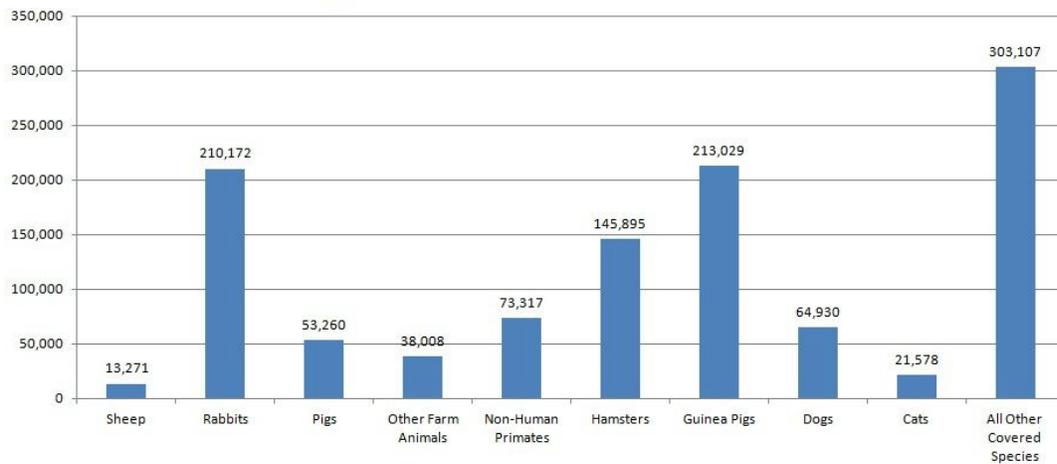
Conclusion

In conclusion I would say that I am for animal testing and think that it should continue as much as needed. I also think that it should be kept under strict animal protection laws. I believe that the animals shouldn't be put through a lot of pain. That is my opinion and it will vary from person to person, so I hope that people will continue to make educated decisions on such a serious topic.

Proportion of animals used for studies of diseases



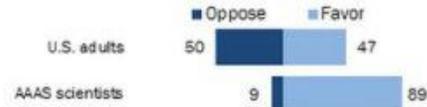
Types of animals used in research 2010



Use of Animals in Scientific Research

Use of Animals in Scientific Research

% each group saying they favor or oppose the use of animals in scientific research

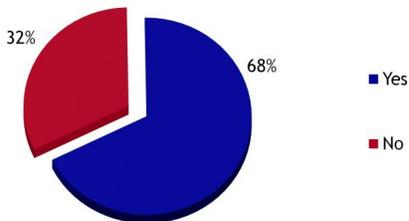


Survey of U.S. adults August 15-25, 2014. Q24a. AAAS scientists survey Sept. 11 - Oct. 13, 2014. Q22a. Those saying don't know or giving no answer are not shown.

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Animal Research is Necessary for Progress in Human Health

Do you believe the use of animals in medical research is necessary for progress in human health?



Source: *Your Congress - Your Health* Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research!America

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Sources

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