Animal testing should stop

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The use of animals for testing has become a controversial issue in the last three decades. Animal testing is now an ethically and morally debated issue. The question here is if use of animals in testing is right or wrong? I will present the two sides of this argument and my opinion.

More than five million animals have already been used in conducting safety tests. These safety tests are usually conducted with a broad range of chemical products such as cosmetics, household cleaners, vaccines and packing materials. As a result, issues like ethics and the humanness of poisoning animals deliberately are raised. Animals are harmed for the sake of advertising and marketing new household and cosmetic products (Singer, 1995).

The U.S Humane Society promotes the research methods which can potentially minimize, replace or even refine the use of animals in order for the animals to experience suffering. HSUS conducted an opinion poll ten years ago on the pain and the distress in research. They found that approximately 62% of the people would accept and approve animal testing if the animals experienced little or no pain. 75% of the people disapproved animal testing as a result of the severe pain experienced by these animals.

There exists a moral and ethical blind spot in animals’ treatment which helps us in justifying the cruelties for the benefits perceived of the humans. Animals are also living things. They do have hearts to beat, lungs to breathe and blood to flow. The smell of sight, sense, and sound for animals is more acute than for human beings. As a result, the sensitivity of animals to pain is equal to ours. Hippocrates said that the soul of all living creatures is the same, but the bodies are different (Hippocrates, 2008).

Some people have a belief that animals can never be entitled to rights since they do not have an understanding and testing of them is necessary. These testing will be introduced to people. A treatment for preventing loss of vision and scarring will be introduced to people soon. It was done using rabbits. There was also a successful study on rats and mice, and as a result, a malaria vaccine is being tested on humans (Harrison, 2013).

There is evidence proofing that animal models are not always accurate and hence they cannot be depended upon on the safety testing and also research on diseases. Doctors and other scientists understand that while animals are similar to humans biologically, they are not identical. Many millions of the lab animals killed annually have saved human life. I would argue that animal testing is unethical unless where it is done for reasonable purposes like finding a cure for a disease. However, for the household and cosmetic products, use of animal testing is unethical and morally wrong (Singer, 1995).

Nowadays, people have invented valuable and non-animal research techniques and methods such as computer modelling and cell and tissue cultures that are available. Animals do not possess a voice to speak, but they mentally and physically feel pain when testing is done on them. Animal testing is not done for fun. Therefore, experiments and testing with no urgent and direct purpose should stop with immediate effect. We should adopt these new methods of research and stop animal testing.

# References

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