

Policy Paper on Animal Testing

Proposition: The United States government should make animal testing illegal everywhere in the country.

Terms: According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary as of 2020,

Illegal is defined as not according to or authorized by law.

Tissue is defined as an aggregate of cells usually of a particular kind together with their intercellular substance that form one of the structural materials of a plant or an animal.

Lab testing is defined as a test conducted under controlled scientific conditions in a laboratory or similar setting.

Cruelty is defined as inhuman treatment.

Violate is defined as to break or disregard [the law].

Ban is defined as to prohibit especially by legal means.

- I. The United States government should make animal testing illegal everywhere in the country. There are tens of millions of animals who are used for animal testing every year, and nearly none of them survive.
 - A. There are tens of millions of animals that are used for animal testing every year, but most of them don't survive. PETA states, "a Pew Research Center poll found that 52 percent of U.S. adults oppose the use of animals in scientific research, and other surveys suggest

that the shrinking group that does accept animal experimentation does so only because it believes it to be necessary for medical progress.” Some animals, such as mice, rats, and birds bred for biomedical purposes are not covered by the Animal Welfare Act so there are less regulations for how these animals are treated. Other animals, such as dogs, are viewed as pets and any harm towards the pet would be considered animal cruelty, a jailable offense. In addition, according to Humane Society International on October 21, 2012, some experiments cause psychological distress and extreme suffering, and some animals may be used in more than one experiment (*Humane Society International*, 2012).

- B. Francis Collins from *PETA* states in one of the company’s articles that these animals are subjected to various tortuous methods, such as having their spinal cords crushed, their skin burned off, and holes drilled into their skulls (*PETA*, no date posted in the article). The government allows the torturing millions and millions of animals every year for the pleasure of human products. The animals live a miserable, extremely painful life and are often killed during or after the experiment. *PETA* also adds that if the animals don’t die from the experiment itself, they can be euthanized by the laboratory. Animal testing hasn’t been proven to be very effective, either; according to the Humane Society International article “About Animal Testing” written on October 21 of 2012, disease centers have seen nearly no progress even though animal testing has been around for decades. With almost no progression at all, animals are still being subjected to this torture on a daily basis.

- C. Millions and millions of animals are tortured their entire lives and die each year in the United States. These deaths serve nearly no purpose at all since there has been nearly no

progression as a result of the animal testing. These animals are abused using the money from taxpayers' pockets (with tests including heart attack experiments and cruel fighting experiments).

- D. The extreme amount of animals being tested every year continues, despite of very much coming out of it. There are not very many discoveries being made from the testing. Currently, animal testing is accepted as the most reliable method of experimenting, however according to Humane Society International in the article *About Animal Testing* written in October of 2012, animal testing is unreliable. Changing the way of experimenting can make the results more accurate.

Transition: Changing the way of animal testing may seem difficult to achieve since it has been put in place for many years, but the large budget allocated to this area allows room for alternate methods.

II. This issue can be resolved by having the U.S. Federal government put laws into place to make animal testing completely illegal.

- A. The United States government will make all animal testing illegal and punish those who violate these laws.
- B. The United States Federal government will put laws into place protecting animals against testing, and these laws will be enforced in all fifty states and U.S. territories. There are a couple laws protecting animals in animal testing currently (such as the Animal Welfare Act), but it protects only certain species *and* animals are still allowed to be abused. The new, stricter laws put into place by the federal government will ensure that animals will

not be tested on. There are better alternatives to test out products and medications; animals don't need to be involved in these processes. As an alternative to animal testing, laboratories can grow human and/or animal cells and test on the cells since scientists now know how to grow a large percent of all of the cells. Tests can also be accomplished through volunteer studies or human tissue donated to science (according to *Cruelty Free International*).

- C. Currently, stated by PETA, the United States spends more than \$12 billion dollars each year for animal testing--this money comes from those who pay taxes in the U.S. Instead of using this current \$12 billion dollar budget towards testing on animals, it can be allocated to grow cells and perform experiments on the cells or on the donated human tissue (which would have no effect on the \$12 billion dollar budget since the tissue is voluntarily given for science).
- D. The federal government will enforce this change and all local and state governments will have to abide by the new laws as well. Violations will be treated as animal cruelty crimes, charged as either a misdemeanor or a felony depending on the circumstance, and the criminal will be subject to time in jail. Just like any other law, police officers will enforce compliance and they will arrest those who are in violation of animal cruelty.

Transition: Changing the way of animal testing will have some positive and negative side effects, however the negative ones can be overcome.

III. Consequences of this change include allowing less animals to have pain intentionally inflicted upon them, testing through other alternatives (human tissue or cells), and possibly receiving more accurate information (since animals are so different from humans, there are sometimes different results if a human tries something that is safe for an animal), according to

ProCon.org in the article titled “Should Animals be Used for Scientific or Commercial Testing?” on March 3, 2020. Also, according to this same article, negative consequences include having more regulations when testing products (since animals have less rights than humans do), and having to wait longer for results (animals have a shorter lifespan so it’s easier and faster to see effects on a mouse that lives for three years versus a human that lives for eighty); however, these barriers can be overcome.

- A. The proposed policy addresses the disparity by referencing the idea that science testing needs to be altered: instead of using animals and knowingly inflicting pain upon them, science experiments can be conducted through alternative means that do not harm animals in the process.
- B. The proposal overcomes the disparity since it proposes a completely different way of performing experiments and testing. There will still be testing, as most can agree that many of these experiments are essential for the safety of humans, but animals won’t be the subjects that are being sacrificed and tested on. Instead of animal testing, the testing will be focused on using other means, such as cells or tissue.
- C. This proposed policy is reasonable and workable considering the fact that billions of dollars each year are given to testing and experiments (according to PETA (no date on the article)), so instead of putting this money towards testing on animals, it can be put towards growing cells and performing experiments on donated human tissue or the cells grown. Also, humans can volunteer for some studies, which could save money.
- D. Millions of animals won’t be bred purely for experiments anymore. Also, humans will be able to receive more accurate experiment results, and money will be saved using

alternative methods. These effects all benefit humans since it will save taxpayer money that can be used somewhere else, and humans will be able to have more accurate results from the experiments.

Transition: There are both pros and cons about banning animal testing, but the good consequences outweigh the bad ones, and the barriers can be addressed and overcome.

Conclusion: In conclusion, there are many benefits that will come from banning animal testing, including having taxpayer money be focused towards other aspects, having less animals in pain, and having more accurate test results. As with any change, there are consequences that could be seen as negative, however the consequences in this situation can be dealt with. Banning animal testing will not only help animals, but humans will benefit greatly as well.

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It's Tax Season: Learn How More Than \$12 Billion in Taxpayer Money is Wasted Annually.

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