

Introduction

Animal experimentation is one of the most controversial issues facing our society. This issue generates tens of thousands of letters to our elected officials and governmental agencies. Activists are willing to risk their freedom to end experiments, or liberate animals from laboratories. And these same activists are labeled as terrorists by pro- vivisectionists.

This report will address basic issues relevant to animal experimentation. These issues will include the number of animals experimented on in the U.S., directional trends in experimentation, violations of the laws/regulations governing the use of animals in research, testing and education,

The basis of this report will be the information contained in the FY 2002 Animal Care Report posted by the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on the website belonging to the agency which is available at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/publications.html>.

The information contained in this report will provide us with the ability to look at the use of animals in experimentation as never before. Newly available information from the USDA provides data not only on the number of animals used in experimentation, but also on topics such as the number of animals held for later use in experimentation, and violations of the AWA by research facilities. This new data should give us the ability to uncover the reality behind the façade presented to the public by research facilities.

National Statistics

During fiscal year 2002 the total number of animals used in experimentation for species regulated by the Animal Welfare Act (this excludes rats, mice and other species -- the majority of animals used in experimentation) was 1,438,553. This is an increase of 201,660 animals from the fiscal year 2001 total of 1,236,903. This is an increase of 16.3%, which is the 4th highest single year increase in history (i.e. since the reporting of these statistics began in 1973).

While the overall picture for animals in labs was grim, the situation for certain species was even worse. The use of cats in experimentation rose to a total of 77,091 from last year's total of 22,755. This is an increase of 54,336 or 239%. This is the largest number of cats used in experimentation since the USDA began compiling statistics on animal experimentation.

Primates fared no better. During 2002 96,061 primates were used in experimentation. This is the largest number of primates used in the history of experimentation. The increase of 46,679 from the 2001 total of 49,382 was one of the largest in history climbing by an astronomical 94.5%.

Dog usage increased to 77,906 during 2002. This is an increase of 7,824 or 11%. This is the largest number of dogs used since 1996.

The use of guinea pigs in experimentation increased to 304,039, a change of 47,846 or 18.7%. Experiments on rabbits increased also, with 312,630 falling under the knife. This was an increase of 45,279, or 16.9%. Hamster use increased too, reaching 193,115 an upsurge of 25,884 or 15.5%. The only decreases were in the catchall categories of "other animals" and "other farm animals."

The magnitude of this issue is difficult to grasp. Therefore, a table (following) breaks down the national statistics to daily numbers for each species. For the species -- primates, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, sheep, pigs and miscellaneous categories -- which are regulated by the Animal Welfare Act, an average of 3941 animals were used in experimentation each day during 2002.

Due to recent legislation rats, mice, and other species are still exempted from the Animal Welfare Act. As a result, these other animals are not even counted. Therefore, we have no real idea how many animals are experimented upon in the U.S. every year. However, with rats and mice (and other species) considered to make up more than 90% of the animals used in the U.S., it would be safe to estimate total U.S. animal experimentation between 19,000,000 and 29,000,000. A conservative annual estimate would be 24,000,000. Or, to make this number easier to grasp, an average of approximately 66,000 animals are experimented on each day in the U.S.

(Please see tables on next page for additional statistics.)

U.S. Daily Animal Use in Experimentation

Species	# Experimented on Daily
Primates	263
Dogs	213
Cats	211
Rabbits	857
Guinea Pigs	833
Hamsters	529
Pigs	200
Sheep	91
Other Farm Animals	156
Other Animals	<u>588</u>
Total	3941

Top States for Experimental Use of each Species

Species	State	# Used in Experimentation
Primates	Louisiana	11,673
Dogs	Wisconsin	6,624
Cats	California	53,551
Guinea Pigs	California	82,364
Rabbits	California	96,499
Hamsters	Iowa	40,825
Pigs	California	5,563
Sheep	California	3,123

Newly Available Information About Animal Experimentation

Animals Housed for Later Use

One area of new information about animal experimentation involves animals that are being held by research laboratories which have not yet, or never will be, used in experimentation. Examples of animals that fit into these categories are ones which are used for breeding purposes, or animals in quarantine for later use in experimentation.

For fiscal year 2002 136,347 of these animals were in laboratories. This brings the actual total for animals in labs to 1,574,900. The largest species in this category is primates with 43,676 held for later use. This brings the actual total for primates in labs to 139,737. The actual population of dogs in laboratories rises to 87,485 when the statistics for animals not yet used in experiments are included. The cat total becomes 78,722. Other species climb to: guinea pigs – 310,540; rabbits – 327,074; hamsters – 202,238; sheep – 40,715; pigs – 77,699; other animals – 245,910; other farm animals – 64,780.

Actual Populations of Animals in U.S. Laboratories by Species

Including animals used in experimentation &
Animals not yet used in experimentation

Species	Total
Primates	139,737
Dogs	87,485
Cats	78,722
Guinea Pigs	310,540
Rabbits	327,074
Hamsters	202,238
Sheep	40,715
Pigs	77,699
Other Animals	245,910
Other Farm Animals	64,780
Total	1,574,900

Animal Welfare Act Violations

For the first time USDA/APHIS has made information available regarding national statistics regarding violations of the Animal Welfare Act by research facilities. 1106 total violations were discussed from research facilities. These violations affected a total of 16,340 animals. Most salient among these violations were the 286 separate violations for inadequate veterinary care. This indicates that about 1 out of every 4 laboratories was cited for inadequate veterinary care. The table below lists these violations.

Summary of Animal Welfare Act Violations in Laboratories for 2002		
Violation Category	#Violations	#Animals Effected
Registration	21	22
Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee	635	3,075
Personnel Qualifications	63	301
Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care	286	12,222
Record Keeping Requirements	33	660
Annual Report	13	60
Miscellaneous	55	2,507
Totals	1106	16,340

The USDA information contained tens of thousands of other violations in areas such as primary enclosures, indoor and outdoor facilities, etc. However, it was not possible to separate the violations in these areas for research facilities from those for dealers, exhibitors, etc. It is also significant to note that there were 227 separate instances of violations for the requirements for providing environmental enhancement for primates. Many of these violations took place in research facilities.

Due to the nature of the USDA data, it is not possible to give totals for all violations that took place within U.S. laboratories. However, it is safe to conclude that the violations total listed above would be substantially increased if this were possible. It is also safe to conclude that all is NOT well within U.S. laboratories.

Conclusion

Due to increased government funding and other factors, the use of animals in experimentation has increased dramatically from 2001 to 2002. The overall national total of 1,438,553 for 2002 is an increase of 16.3% over 2001. This increase of 201,660 (16.3%) animals is the fourth largest single year increase ever.

The use of both primates (96,061) and cats (77,091) has reached the highest levels for these species since the beginning of the statistical tracking of animal experimentation. All other areas of animal use in experimentation (dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, etc.) have increased, save only the "other animals" and "other farm animals" categories.

At a time when improvements in technology should be allowing for non-invasive clinical studies using sophisticated imaging techniques (fMRI, PET, etc.) and in vitro technology should be leading to a dramatic decrease in animal use, the exact opposite appears to be taking place.

Reports issued by Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! have revealed that the number of animals used in experimentation appears to be skyrocketing. Similarly, the level of funding assigned to animal experimentation by government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health has reached an amazing \$10 billion annually.

This is no coincidence. University officials have seen the opportunity to obtain hundreds of millions of dollars annually from government agencies for the performance of research. They have apparently decided to fill their collective pockets with taxpayers' dollars, and they have done this at a time when our government is facing huge deficits. Researchers grasp for six-figure salaries at our expense.

Caught in the middle we find millions of animals. With the majority of animals still receiving no protection, due to the exclusion of rats, mice, and other species from the Animal Welfare Act by recent legislation, these creatures become little more than grist for the money mill that runs through the campuses of our colleges and universities.

We still do not have universal health care in the U.S. Drug addiction is a major problem in our schools. The National Institutes of Health has responded to these crises by spending \$10 billion a year on scientifically questionable animals experiments, including over \$384 million spent to make drug addicts out of rats, mice and primates.

Therefore, we are issuing twin calls to action today. Every American taxpayer should be angered by the continual squandering of billions on useless animal experiments. Each and every one of us should be disgusted by the white-coated welfare program which is currently being supported by the National Institutes of Health. We are calling upon every taxpayer to contact his/her elected officials and demand an accounting. We all have a right to know what has been gained from the decades of multi-billion dollar expenditures, and the deaths of tens of millions animals.

We are also calling upon every animal protection organization to again make opposition to animal experimentation a major focus of activity. Certainly, there are many worthwhile issues that deserve our attention. However, if we do not soon begin to turn the tide against animal experimentation, it may be too late.