



Science Media Centre

where science meets the headlines

Fiona Fox
Chief Executive





Set up in 2002 after things went very wrong:

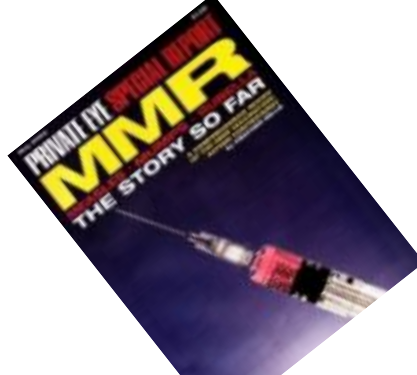
- MMR & autism**
- GM crops**
- BSE**
- Animal research**

Do we give our children more jabs than their bodies can cope with?



**American scientists find measles in autistic children
Another study raises questions over MMR**

Autism's Cause
A new study from the University of California, Los Angeles, suggests that the MMR vaccine may be linked to autism. The researchers found that autistic children have higher levels of measles virus in their brains than non-autistic children. This finding, they say, could help explain why autistic children often have immune system problems.



THE PRIME MONSTER

Fury as Blair says: I eat Frankenstein food and it's safe



WE FACING AN

MMR: THE TRUTH

For years, doctors pooh-poohed parents' fears over the MMR jab. When cases of autistic children rocketed by around 270% statistics were dismissed as fantasy. But now the evidence is growing too strong to ignore.



by Melanie Phillips



Should you vaccinate your child?

Daily Mail COMMENT
So much for 'joined up government'!

MMR safe? Baloney. This is one scandal that's getting worse

MP backs doctor in row over single dose MMR



40% of respondents of the inquiry state at least that Worcestershire Health Authority has acted in a reckless manner.



Evening Standard

Doctors make sure their children avoid MMR jab

Frankenstein food? You'll be made to like it



'I'd rather risk them being deaf or blind than becoming autistic'

FURY OVER GM CROP GO-AHEAD

SOYBEAN CROPS TO BE GROWN IN 2005



Soccer stars to face their sex case accusers

Why I wouldn't give my baby the MMR jab
by Julia Carling

Spin, lies and flawed science
COMMENTARY



Vision

Policy decisions and public debate informed by accurate, evidence-based scientific information in the news media

Mission

To make it easier for journalists to access the best science when stories hit the headlines and to ensure that more scientists engage with the media when stories hit the headlines

Values

Reliable, fast, accurate, authoritative, independent, media savvy



Science Media Centre
where science meets the headlines

SMC Philosophy

" We'll get the media to 'DO' science better when scientists 'DO' media better "



Animal research in the UK media

1. The Bad Old Days

Reacting to animal extremism

1980s – 1990s



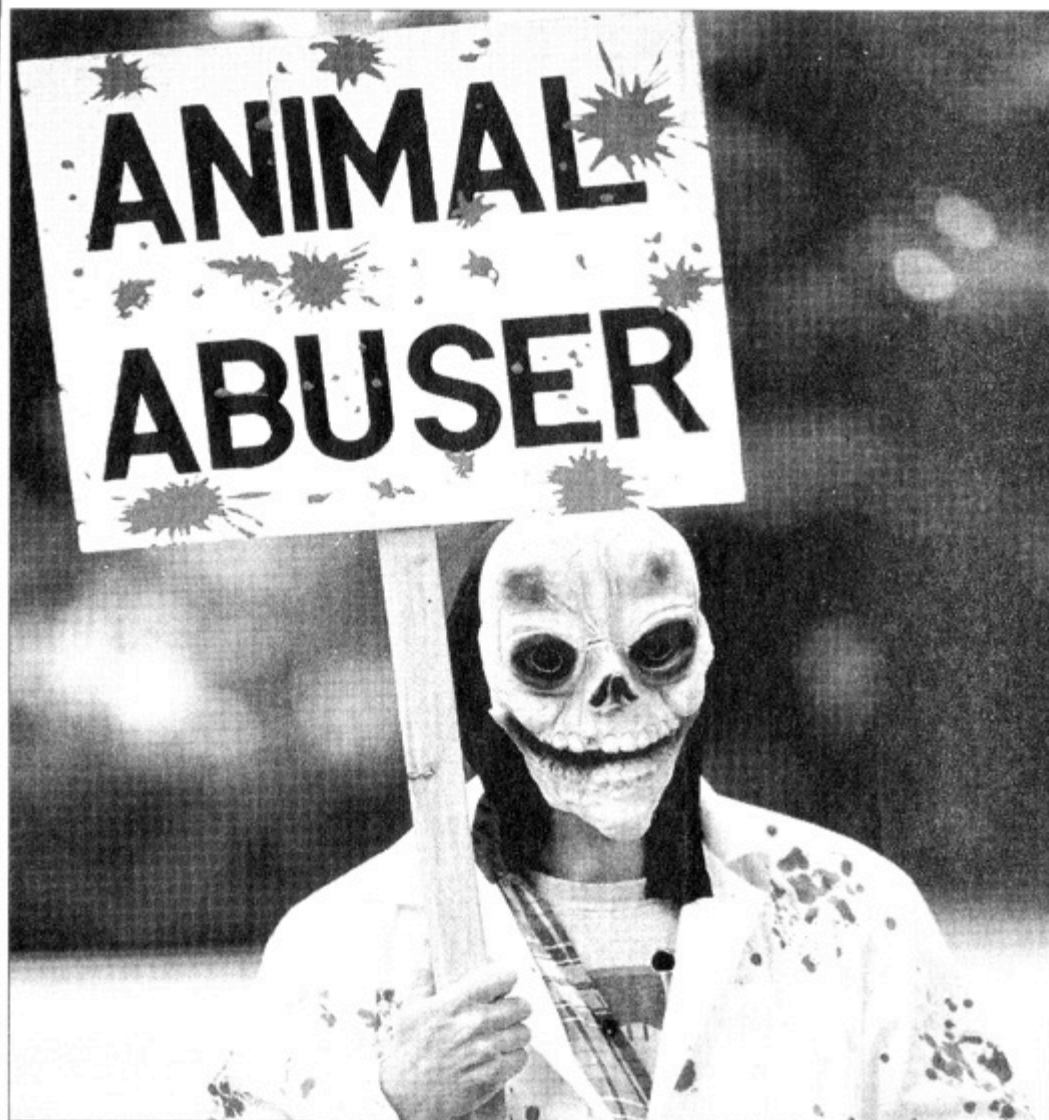
- **Almost every story is on extremism**
- **Only a handful of scientists prepared to speak out**
- **Animal research covered by general and political reporters**
- **Funders and government stay quiet**

Legislative, judicial & governmental action

Animal activist / extremist activity

Science & medical community action

<p>1997</p>		<p><i>(July)</i> Consort Kennels in Hereford, a laboratory beagle breeder, closes after a 10-month animal rights campaign including the theft of 26 beagles.</p>	
<p>1999</p>		<p><i>(August)</i> Hillgrove Farm in Oxfordshire, the UK's only commercial breeder of laboratory cats, closes after a violent three year campaign.</p>	
<p>2004</p>		<p><i>(Jan)</i> Cambridge University abandons plan for new primate laboratory after intense campaigning.</p> <p><i>(Oct)</i> Darley Oaks Farm in Staffordshire closes its guinea pig breeding business after a violent six-year campaign including digging up the grave of Gladys Hammond, the owners' mother-in-law, sparking widespread outrage.</p>	



Activist threat: Montpellier shares fell 19 per cent after protesters' letters urged their sale Geoff Robinson

INTIMIDATION

Builder pulls out of animal research deal

By Clive Cookson,
Science Editor

Scientists and industry groups reacted furiously last night to news that Montpellier, the construction company, had withdrawn from its contract to build an animal research facility at Oxford University, in response to intimidation from extremists.

David Blunkett, home secretary, said the government would publish within three weeks its promised programme to give the police more power to deal with animal activists. He told *Channel 4 News* he would do "whatever is necessary within reason to clamp down on people who are internal terrorists".

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry said: "It is truly appalling that the illegal activities of a small band of people conducting a campaign of intimidation, harassment and terrorism can prevent a company from working on a facility that will bring great benefit to people."

A joint statement from the university and Montpellier

said only that they had agreed to end the company's construction contract. They refused to discuss the reasons. Mr Blunkett said after speaking to Montpellier management: "I am deeply sorry that because of the dangers to profitability and the structure of the company being damaged they've had to pull out."

Last month, Montpellier shareholders received letters, falsely claiming to come from the company's senior management, urging them to sell their shares or face reprisals from animal extremists. Montpellier shares fell 19 per cent on the day the threat was made public. Yesterday they closed 10 per cent up at 19.5p on news of the withdrawal from the Oxford project.

The university said it was confident it could find a new contractor quickly and still open the £18m facility on schedule by the end of next year.

Tipu Aziz, professor of neurosurgery at Oxford, said: "Until animal rights extremists are treated as terrorists they will hold hostage the future of British public health."



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2. The Brave New World

**Moving on, being proactive
and normalising animal research**

2005 – 2010



- **Extremists are locked up**
- **Government backs scientists**
- **Funders become more vocal**
- **More scientists willing to speak out**
- **No evidence that speaking out leads to being targeted**
- **Public support remains steady**
- **Animal research stories covered by science specialists**
- **Risk of negative coverage minimal**
- **Almost all stories positive – especially proactive ones**

Legislative, judicial & governmental action

Animal activist / extremist activity

Science & medical community action

<p>2005</p>	<p><i>(April)</i> Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 aims to tackle animal extremism including introducing a new “economic damage” offence. <i>(Nov)</i> Work re-starts on University of Oxford lab following an injunction in which the constructor and supply chain are not identified.</p>		<p><i>(May)</i> Nuffield Council on Bioethics report supports use of animals in research, while calling for more focus on finding alternatives and more transparency.</p>
<p>2006</p>	<p><i>(May)</i> Three extremists given 12 year prison sentences for blackmail in connection with the grave robbery of Gladys Hammond.</p>		<p><i>(Feb)</i> Pro-Test campaign formed in Oxford in favour of continued animal testing. <i>(April)</i> People’s Petition signed by 20,000+ signatories, including Tony Blair, in support of medical research.</p>



Seizing the agenda

**SMC pioneered a more
proactive approach**



e.g. the publication of annual statistics on use of animals in research by government

- Stats were placed on government website with no media strategy
- Animal rights activists took them straight away, spinning them to their favourite journalists
- Scientific community was forced into responsive mode
- SMC turned this around completely



Science Media Centre
where science meets the headlines

27th July

Annual Home Office statistics on animal research

News Briefing



Science Media Centre
where science meets the headlines

Science Media Centre News Briefing

What? Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate: Annual Report and Statistical Report

When? 11.00am Tuesday 27 July

Where? The Science Media Centre, 19 Albemarle Street, W1S 4BS

As is now common practise the SMC has invited the Home Office to announce the numbers of animals used in research in 2009 and to publish their inspection report at the Centre. As usual we have invited some leading scientists who use animals in their research to react to the figures and put them into the context of scientific developments.

Two reports are being released:

ASPI&D Annual Report 2009: describes the work of the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate and Division during 2009, covering all licensing activity under ASPA and policy development in the area of animal research.

Annual Statistics 2009: contains the latest statistics on animal research in Great Britain for the year 2009, published by the Office for National Statistics.

Speakers include:

Dr Judy MacArthur Clark, CBE, MRCVS. Chief Inspector, Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate

Professor Allan Bradley, Director Emeritus, Sanger Centre

Professor Robin Lovell Badge, Medical Research Council

Jon Richmond, Home Office



Briefing attendees

Tom Feilden	BBC Today
David Derbyshire	Mail
Mike Swain	Mirror
John von Radowitz	PA
Steve Connor	Independent
Pallab Gosh	BBC
Alok Jha	Guardian
Alison Goddard	Economist



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*Julie Burchill 'Brokeback Mountain
 Politicians are more like Mean Girls'*

21 ALBEMARLE STREET SCIENCE MEDIA CENTRE 7/20
 [CTD 23]
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**The mouse
 that cured**

More than a million mice were genetically modified last year to help find treatments for human diseases. But is it an ethical price worth paying?

REPORTS, PAGES 4&5



Bought for \$45, treasure trove of Ansel Adams pictures worth \$200m
 This section, page 16



Britons lead the way in Barcelona

Sport, back page

Viewpaper

Christina Patterson
 Attention all religions: multiculturalism has its limits
 Opinion & Debate, page 8

Hamish McRae
 We may yet profit from the bank bailout
 Economic Studies, page 5

Sean O'Grady
 The strange death of Liberal England
 The Wednesday Essay, page 10

Independent



Half of tests use GM animals

Half of all experiments on animals carried out in the past year involved genetically modified species for the first time.

Welfare groups condemned the "shameful" figure, despite a one per cent drop in the total number of experiments announced by the Home Office.

More than 3.6 million tests were carried out in Britain last year. Mice, rats, birds and fish accounted for 97 per cent of the tests.

Telegraph

EXPERIMENTS

Mutant lab animals are on the rise

By **MIKE SWAIN**, Science Editor

THE number of genetically modified animals used for experiments in labs has leapt by 10% in a year.

There were 1.5 million procedures - an increase of 143,000 - on GM animals and those bred with a harmful defect, Home Office figures reveal.

Most are mutant mice which are deliberately bred with cancer and other diseases to see how different genes change their condition.

Prof Allan Bradley, of the Sanger Institute, Cambridge, which studies GM mice, said: "One of the primary ways we understand what genes do is to look at situations where the gene is altered or lost. The principal way of doing that is with model organisms, namely mice. We have stringent measures to limit suffering."

Overall, 3.6 million laboratory procedures were carried out on animals in 2009, a 1% fall from 2008.

But Michelle Thew, of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, said: "The UK should be leading the way in reducing animal testing. Unfortunately, these latest statistics show there is a long way to go. Millions of animals continue to suffer and die in UK labs."

Mirror



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4 April 2006

Measuring suffering in animal research

Press Briefing



Science Media Centre

where science meets the headlines

Science Media Centre Briefing

What? Launch of new report on animal suffering

When? 10.00am, Tuesday 4 April 2006

Where? Science Media Centre, 19 Albemarle Street, W1S 4BS

Both the Nuffield Foundation and the House of Lords select committee on animal research called for a new system of measuring suffering in animal research. Critics of the current system point out that it is too generalised, and because it's prospective rather than retrospective provides no indication of the actual experience for the animals used.

As a result the Home Office asked the Animal Procedures Committee and the Laboratory Animal Science Association (LASA) to consider the possibility of designing a new system for measuring and reporting the level of suffering experience by animals during scientific procedures. This report, which includes the results of a pilot using the proposed new system, will be published at a briefing at the Science Media Centre.

Speakers include:

Dr David Smith - Toxicologist and president of LASA

Dr Dominic Wells - Imperial College Faculty of Medicine

Sara Nathan - Chair of the Animal Procedures Committee



Animals' new deal - The Times

Animal suffering in experiments should be revealed, say advisers - The Guardian

New way to assess animal suffering - Daily Telegraph

Rules on animal tests may face big changes -
Financial Times

Animal-research reporting set for shift: British system could offer more accurate reporting of animal suffering -
Nature



Last Updated: Tuesday, 4 April 2006, 23:05 GMT 00:05 UK

[E-mail this to a friend](#)

[Printable version](#)

Science examines animal suffering

By Rebecca Morelle
BBC News science reporter

Scientists are carrying out a study to see if it is possible to report levels of suffering experienced by animals during scientific procedures.

The Home Office only issues statistics based on how severe a procedure is expected to be when it is licensed.

The study aims to see if suffering can be assessed and reported after the procedure has taken place.

A report setting out the preliminary findings of the investigation is due to be published.

The work is a collaboration between the Laboratory Animal Science Association (Lasa) and the Animal Procedures Committee (APC).

Levels of severity



About 2.85 million animals were used in experiments in 2004

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS

KEY STORIES

- ▶ [Animal tests get renewed backing](#)
- ▶ [Targeted guinea pig farm closes](#)
- ▶ [Guinea pig farm closure: Reaction](#)
- ▶ [Animal efforts 'need bigger push'](#)
- ▶ [Measures to curb animal protests](#)

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS



On the increase?

How much animal testing is still carried out in the UK?

- ▶ [Head to head: Laws on activists](#)
- ▶ [Animal rights taking on the world](#)
- ▶ [Firms versus animal extremists](#)
- ▶ [Why monkey studies should stop](#)
- ▶ [Why primate research is essential](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY

- ▶ [Guinea pig farm right to close?](#)

BBC ACTION NETWORK



Animal rights

Starting points to help you take action on animal issues



Science Media Centre

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2nd June 2006

**Launch of MRC / Wellcome Trust publication
on primate research**

News Briefing



Science Media Centre

where science meets the headlines

Science Media Centre News Briefing

What? Leading scientists speak out on primate research

When? Friday 2 June 2006 at 10am

Where? Science Media Centre, 19 Albemarle street, W1S 4BS

The briefing is being held to coincide with the launch of a new booklet published by Wellcome and MRC which is aimed exclusively at providing the public with an accurate insight into why and how primates are used in medical research. Taking place as it does on the eve of the second Pro-test march in Oxford, it signals a change in the climate in the public debate.

Two years ago when the Science Media Centre ran a briefing on primate research it was off camera and off the record – as requested by the researchers and their institutions. How different to this briefing where leading scientists will talk about their research on primates while supported by two of the UK's major funders of medical research – the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council.

Speakers include:

Professor Colin Blakemore - Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council

Professor Mark Walport - Director of the Wellcome Trust

Professor Tipu Aziz - Consultant Neurosurgeon, Oxford University

Professor Roger Lemon - Institute Of Neurology, University College London

Dr Mark Baxter - Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow, University of Oxford



Briefing attendees

Pallab Ghosh	BBC News
Tom Feilden	BBC Radio 4 Today Programme
Nic Fleming	Daily Telegraph
Mark Henderson	The Times
Clive Cookson	Financial Times
Andy Coghlan	New Scientist
Mike Hopkin	News@Nature
Caroline Gammell	Press Association



Coverage

Press Association
BBC Breakfast News
BBC Today Programme
BBC News Online
Daily Telegraph
Financial Times
Independent
The Times
Daily Mail
The Guardian

Medical tests on great apes should not be banned, says research chief



Professor Colin Blakemore

By Nic Fleming, Science Correspondent

12:01AM BST 03 Jun 2006

Great apes might have to be used in animal experiments, leading medical researchers said yesterday.

Professor Colin Blakemore, chief executive of the Medical Research Council, said that while there was no current need for experiments on chimpanzees, gorillas or orangutans, their use in future should not be ruled out.

Prof Blakemore said that if, for example, the country were threatened with a deadly infectious disease and that the only way to prevent thousands of deaths was to carry out research involving great apes then most people would support their use.

He also criticised pop stars whose influence on the debate on animal experimentation was out of proportion with their expertise and challenged



UK News
News >

ELSEWHERE



How foreign students with lower grades jump the university queue



Fabio Capello claim Wayne Rooney only understands Scottish



Scientists launch public campaign on animal tests

By Clive Cookson, Science Editor

Scientists launched a public information drive yesterday to explain why they needed to use monkeys for research as antivivisectionists prepared a campaign to outlaw non-human primate experiments.

The Medical Research Council and Wellcome Trust, the leading medical research funders, promoted a booklet that explained in lay language how and why laboratories used 2,800 monkeys a year. They indicated that in extreme circumstances scientists might want to carry out tests with apes that had been banned since 1998.



More

IN SCIENCE

[Research calls stir 'Frankenfood' debate](#)

[New threat to EU stem cell research](#)

[Police foil move to destroy modified wheat](#)

[Food battle looms on Hertfordshire fields](#)

Lord Sainsbury, science minister, said: "Research using primates has provided vaccines to protect children and adults from polio and insulin for diabetes, and work with primates has led to progress in finding treatments for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and HIV/Aids."

Experiments with apes - chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-utans - became illegal in 1998 but continued on a limited scale in other countries such as the US.

Colin Blakemore, MRC chief executive, said at the Science Media Centre in London that while he was "very comfortable with the ban under present circumstances", it might need to be lifted in a medical emergency - "for example if there was an emerging infectious disease which was extremely dangerous and for which the only possible animal model was the chimp or gorilla".

The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, which will launch its own report on Monday, arguing for an end to all primate experiments, was infuriated by Prof Blakemore's re-marks.



Science Media Centre
where science meets the headlines

11 December 2007

Better regulation of animal research

Press Briefing



Science Media Centre

where science meets the headlines

Science Media Centre News Briefing

What? The need for better regulation of animal research

When? 10.30am, Tuesday 11 December 2007

Where? Science Media Centre, 19 Albemarle Street, W1S 4BS

Scientists making the case for animal research have proudly argued that the laws governing animal experiments in the UK are the best in the world. But many leading scientists - most recently Lord Winston - have voiced concerns that the regulatory system has become overly bureaucratic and threatens to undermine scientific research. The Government has pledged, amongst other things, to reduce the level of detail in project licence applications by at least 25% by the end of 2007 (without undermining animal welfare). As this deadline approaches, the Science Media Centre has invited leading scientists into the centre to brief you on the problems they have encountered, and why they are asking for changes to the regulations. The scientists will explain why they believe better regulation will make for better scientific research and improved animal welfare.

Speakers include:

Professor Max Headley – Bristol University

Professor Clive Page – Kings College

Professor Dominic Wells – Imperial College

Roger Walker – Institute of Neurology



Attendees

Mark Henderson
David Derbyshire
Roger Highfield
Alok Jha
Clive Cookson
Mike Swain
Tom Feilden

The Times
Daily Mail
Telegraph
Guardian
FT
Mirror
BBC Radio 4 Today

Red tape on animal research slowing progress, say scientists

Researchers claim medical advances being hampered

British experiments most regulated in world

Alok Jha
Science correspondent

Excessive red tape on animal experiments is slowing down medical research and preventing the introduction of new techniques to improve the welfare of animals, leading scientists claim. They have called on the government to streamline the process or risk damaging the UK's international position in biomedical research.

Speaking at a briefing yesterday, Dominic Wells of Imperial College London said the UK was the most regulated country in the world on the use of experimental animals – the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries estimated that British academics spend at least £50m a year in dealing with the paperwork needed for research licences.

Home Office figures released in July showed the number of procedures carried out on animals rose 4% to a 15-year high of more than 3m last year, making Britain the most active European country for animal experiments.

Experiments are governed by the Animals in Scientific Procedures Act 1986, which requires that all research is overseen by the Home Office. The institution where the experiment will be carried out needs to be pre-approved and inspected and the researchers involved all need their own permits. The project itself then requires an additional licence which lists the numbers of animals to be used, exactly

experiments, a highly detailed document that can run into hundreds of pages.

In addition, since 1999, each institution has had to show that all animal work goes through an internal ethical review process which includes lay people, scientists and animal care and welfare officers.

Wells said that predicting how an experiment would need to be carried out in five years' time, a requirement under UK laws, was often difficult, given the rapid advance of technology.

Even minor changes to an experiment,

which may not affect an animal's wellbeing, often take months to enact because every change has to be approved individually.

Clive Page, of King's College London, said: "If tomorrow my colleagues in the US discovered a new way to anaesthetise rabbits that we've not had in this country before, to introduce that, I'd have to go back to actually justify it and go through the ethical review process for an amendment, go back to the Home Office. That all takes time. In that time, you've got animals potentially that are not getting the best welfare because people don't want to go through the hassle of bureaucracy."

He said the excessive red tape would have negative effects on the UK's competitiveness and would make recruiting top international scientists difficult.

In 2005, the then chancellor, Gordon Brown, commissioned a review of government red tape. The resulting report recommended that in the case of animals in research, the regulatory burden should be reduced by at least 25% by 2010. The Home Office will publish details early next year of how it plans to make the reduction.

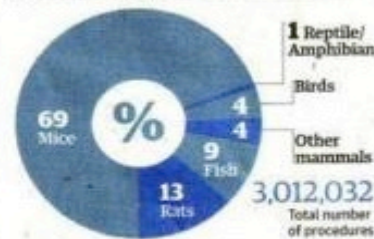
Barney Reed, a senior scientist at the RSPCA, said: "In our view, far too much credence has been given to complaints on the part of the scientific community that have not been substantiated or are not really problems at all. Whingeing about the detail required in project licence applications is a longstanding complaint by certain individuals, but this has been extensively reviewed and a revised project licence application form was agreed just a couple of years ago."

He added: "The RSPCA is not opposed to looking at ways of reducing the 'administrative burden' per se, provided this does not have any negative impact on animals."

Page insisted scientists were not trying to dilute their welfare obligations. "It's more about how we reduce bureaucracy."

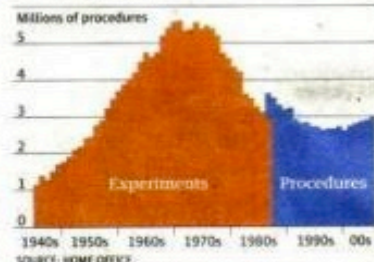
Animal experiments

Procedures by species of animal, 2006



Procedures started in 2006

A single experiment may contain more than one procedure





Earth home

Earth news

Earth watch

Comment

Greener living

Earth Pulse

Science

Messageboards

Announcements

Arts

Blogs

Comment

Crossword

Dating

Digital Life

Earth

Education

Expat

Family

Fantasy Games

Fashion

Features

Food & Drink

Football

Gardening

Health

Horoscopes

My Telegraph

Obituaries

Promotions

Property

Science

Sudoku

Telegraph offers



Animal test red tape 'strangling research'

By Roger Highfield, Science Editor

Last Updated: 12:01am GMT 12/12/2007

Medical research is being stifled because the Government has failed to honour a pledge to cut the red tape surrounding animal experiments, scientists have claimed.

They said excessive form-filling and bureaucracy deterred leading researchers from working in British laboratories and wasted time.

One scientist claimed that the humidity and climate control for rats and mice was more onerous than that for a hospital's accident and emergency department, with the threat of closure if the temperature changed beyond limits. Another said at least three licences were required for a single piece of research.

advertisement

The Government pledged to cut red tape by a quarter by the end of this year but scientists said little progress had been made.

Prof Dominic Wells, of Imperial College London, who is developing gene therapies to combat muscular dystrophy, said: "There is a huge amount of paperwork and that is very difficult to match with the pace of scientific change.

"Each time we find a new way of doing something, we have to go through a complex process of getting it approved by the Home Office. This makes us non-competitive."

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Related articles

8 November 2007: UK second in EU's animal experiments list

14 September 2007: Drug trials put at risk by flawed animal testing

EARTH MOST VIEWED

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Meet like-minded people this Valentine's Day





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**Pro-active communication
to media**

=

**more accurate and
measured coverage**



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How the future should look

2010 →



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29 September 2012

Leicester opens new animals lab

Feature

NEW £16 MILLION MEDICAL RESEARCH FACILITY OPENED IN LEICESTER

Purpose-built University of Leicester centre will develop new techniques for fighting disease and treating patients

A new £16 million medical research facility has been formally opened at the University of Leicester.

The new 4,500 square metres three-storey purpose-built Central Research Facility replaces previous

“Medical research done at the University of Leicester involving animals has a direct relationship with the treatment of patients in hospitals locally and beyond.”

the treatment of patients in hospitals locally and beyond. The University of Leicester is at the fore of developing cutting-edge techniques for heart research and treatment, combating cancer and stroke, and in renal transplant research amongst others.

Research at the University of Leicester involving animals has contributed to the life-saving ECMO

“The opening of this new facility shows the University’s continued commitment to breaking new ground. This is something that the whole city can take pride in.”

Psychology said: “Since the opening of the Leicester Medical School in 1975 there has always been a focus in the University on achieving local benefit from local research.

“In particular, early research based on animal studies has been critical to several medical advances including major improvements in kidney transplantation leading to higher success rates and microwave-based treatment of tumours in the liver.

“More recently there have been breakthroughs in heart disease treatment that have improved the use of artery-widening stents and pioneering work on the implantation of devices that alleviate heart failure.

“Research in Leicester has also led to the establishment of facilities benefitting the nation as a whole. The life-saving Leicester ECMO unit, which effectively breathes for critically ill patients, and the Leicester Bone bank are important examples.



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Today programme





'It's not easy, but there's no alternative to animal tests, say Leicester scientists as £16m centre opens its doors

Mercury Follow Wednesday, October 03, 2012

Life-saving research at new £16m centre at University of Leicester

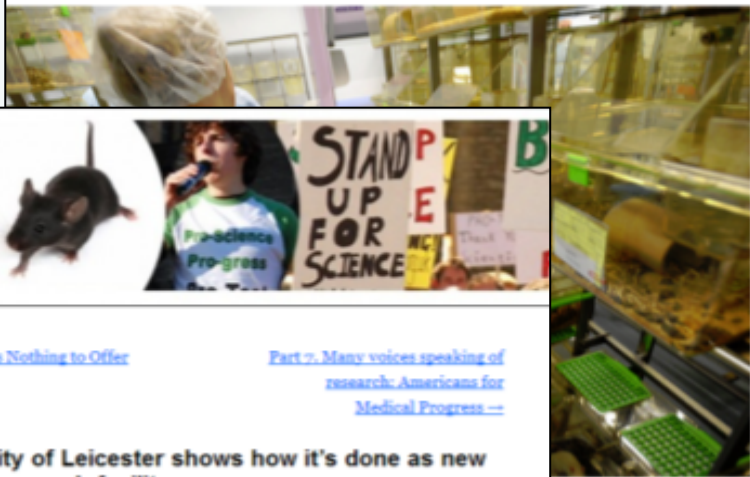
Leicester Mercury Follow Saturday, September 29, 2012

Scientists working on revolutionary treatments for cancer, heart disease and other life-threatening conditions have welcomed the opening of a £16 million research centre at the University of Leicester.

The Central Research Facility is used by up to 200 staff working experiments using rats and mice.

are proud about their work in trying to find new treatments for devastating h as cancer or a stroke.

accept there may be concerns that the early stages of their research involves testing rats or mice.



The opening ceremony at the University

Speaking of research

Speaking of Research on Facebook 834

[PeTA has Nothing to Offer](#) [Part 7: Many voices speaking of research: Americans for Medical Progress](#)

University of Leicester shows how it's done as new animal research facility opens

Posted on September 28, 2012 by Blue Six Science | [Leave a comment](#)

In a ceremony at the University of Leicester today City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby [opened the new Central Research Facility](#), marking the beginning of a new era for animal research there. Speaking at the ceremony, the Mayor welcomed the University's investment, saying:

The University of Leicester has a well-deserved, worldwide reputation for its pioneering research, which has been key to many life-saving medical advances. The opening of this new facility shows the University's continued commitment to breaking new ground. This is something that the whole city can take pride in."

everyday operation of the y of Leicester

ted behind the scenes of the

But the scientists say the new scanning techniques and other equ building will reduce the number of animals needed for essential r





Science Media Centre
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Normalising animal research as part of the story of science



Science Media Centre
where science meets the headlines

12 September 2012

Making deaf gerbils hear

News Briefing



Science Media Centre

where science meets the headlines

Science Media Centre news briefing

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 6pm UK TIME WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2012

What? Making deaf gerbils hear

When? 10.30am Wednesday 12 September 2012

Where? The Wellcome Trust, 215 Euston Road, NW1 2BE

Researchers have taken adult gerbils, made them deaf and then attempted to restore their hearing ability using human embryonic stem cells.

Dr Marcelo Rivolta, *Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Stem Cell Biology, University of Sheffield*

Prof Walter Marcotti, *Professor of Biomedical Science and Royal Society Research Fellow, University of Sheffield*



Briefing attendees

Ian Sample	Guardian
Nick Collins	Telegraph
James Gallagher	BBC
Charlie Cooper	Independent
Gabrielle Nash	ITN
Lawrence McGinty	ITN
John Parrington	Times (BA Media Fellow)
John von Radowitz	Press Association
Ben Hirschler	Reuters
Tom Feilden	BBC Radio 4 Today Programme
Andy Coghlan	New Scientist
Maki Kitamura	Bloomberg
Ling Ge	Financial Times (BA Media Fellow)
Fergus Walsh	BBC

Deafness cure closer – thanks to gerbils

By **CHARLIE COOPER**

Scientists have made a major advance in the pursuit of a cure for deafness, by restoring the hearing of deaf gerbils, using human stem cells.

The technique, which is the first to use stem cells to treat hearing loss, could one day benefit hundreds of thousands of sufferers in the UK.

Researchers from the University of Sheffield were able to turn human embryonic stem cells into ear cells, which were then transplanted into the inner

ear of gerbils that had been made deaf. On average the deaf gerbils' hearing improved by 46 per cent. In humans, this would be the equivalent of someone who could not hear a lorry pass by having their hearing improve to the degree that they could conduct a conversation at standard indoor volume.

The pioneering treatment involved implanting the gerbils, which were chosen because

their hearing range is similar to that of humans, with around 50,000 inner-ear nerve cells. Although recovery rates varied, some gerbils had their hearing almost totally restored.

The technique could be used to cure a form of deafness known as auditory neuropathy, characterised by damage to the cochlear nerve, which links the inner ear to the brain.

As many as 15 per cent of hearing problems are understood to

be associated with auditory neuropathy, which is usually genetic but can also be exacerbated by environmental factors such as noise exposure and jaundice at birth.

Up to one in six people in the UK has hearing problems, while about three million are profoundly deaf. The researchers estimate 300,000 of them could benefit from stem cell treatment in the future.

"This is an important step forward," said Dr Marcelo Rivolta, who led the study. "We now have a method to produce human cochlear sensory cells that we could use to develop new drugs and treatments, and to study the function of genes. And more importantly, we have the proof-of-concept that human stem cells could be used to repair the damaged ear."

The researchers said that, although they could not be "100 per cent certain" that cells would react in the same way when implanted into human rather than gerbil ears, the ultimate aim of the study was to trial the technique as a medical treatment.



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BBC Online

12 September 2012 Last updated at 18:00

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Deaf gerbils 'hear again' after stem cell cure

By James Gallagher

Health and science reporter, BBC News

UK researchers say they have taken a huge step forward in treating deafness after stem cells were used to restore hearing in animals for the first time.

Hearing partially improved when nerves in the ear, which pass sounds into the brain, were rebuilt in gerbils - **a UK study in the journal Nature reports.**

Getting the same improvement in people would be a shift from being unable to hear traffic to hearing a conversation.

However, treating humans is still a distant prospect.

If you want to listen to the radio or have a chat with a friend your ear has to convert sound waves in the air into electrical signals which the brain will understand.



Researchers hope they will be able to one day treat deafness with stem cells.

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Stem cells restore hearing to deaf gerbils

A new stem cell treatment to repair ear damage offers the hope of a cure for a common form of deafness which could benefit more than 300,000 Britons, researchers claim.

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By **Nick Collins**, Science Correspondent

6:00PM BST 12 Sep 2012

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Cure for deafness a reality as scientists make animals hear again... and promise first human patients will be treated in a 'few years'

- Scientists used injections of millions of stem cells to successfully treat profoundly deaf gerbils
- On average, hearing was restored by almost 50% within just a few weeks
- But, in some cases, it returned to near perfect levels

By FIONA MACRAE

PUBLISHED: 18:00, 12 September 2012 | UPDATED: 20:50, 12 September 2012

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Deaf animals have been made to hear again, in a breakthrough that brings hope to millions.

Sheffield University scientists used injections of millions of stem cells to successfully treat profoundly deaf gerbils.

On average, hearing was restored by almost 50 per cent within just a few weeks. But, in some cases, it returned to near perfect levels.

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Science Media Centre
where science meets the headlines

21 June 2011

Animal Aid campaign

Roundup

20p



1

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TUESDAY
 21 JUNE 2011
 Number 135

The cruelty lies in not giving employers the maximum incentive to take them on.

Dominic Lawson
 ON THE CRISIS IN THE LEASING WORLD

PH



Charities at war

Animal Aid urges boycott of leading UK charities over animal rights

Scientists warn campaign could set back research by decades



Coalition defies critics on pensions



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IQ

Style
Swimwear to suit all shapes

It's never too late to learn to drive... or is it?

Wimbledon
 Shaky Murray battles to victory

Animal rights campaigners 'could set cancer research back decades'

By Simon Willmet
 SCIENTIFIC EDITOR

Health charities last night warned that medical research into cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's may be set back by decades because of a high-profile boycott campaign by animal rights campaigners.

Animal Aid plans to take out newspaper ads urging the public to stop giving money to Cancer Research UK, the British Heart Foundation, the Alzheimer's Society and Parkinson's UK unless they end support for animal testing.

The campaign has been condemned as irresponsible by the charities and scientists, who warn it could set back medical research and damage other important areas of the charities' work.

"This is an illogical and ill-considered campaign," said Lord Willis of Knebworth, the chairman of the Association of Medical Research Charities. It will have consequences for charities targeted, he added, during tight economic times, as a downturn in donations could put any extra back by decades.

Celia Hakeman, Professor of Neurosciences at the University of Oxford, said: "This is an utterly irresponsible attack by Animal Aid."

Animal Aid yesterday published a report, *Victims of Charity*, which it claimed highlighted charity-funded tests that caused "appalling suffering". In total, 26 charities were identified as using public donations to fund animal research.

The four named UK charities were singled out as organisations of "poor standing". Together they have animal houses of more than 57,000. Animal Aid urged people to withhold donations until charities promised to stop funding animal experiments.

Its director, Andrew Tyles, said: "Animal Aid is under no illusion as to the pro-animal research lobby's financial and political clout. But the public do not like the idea of animals undergoing great suffering for no purpose, and Victims of Charity argues that this is precisely what is happening."

But Professor Tyles said, who has conducted research using animals in his work at Alzheimer's, said it would have been impossible without them. "If you stop animal research you will stop medical progress," Professor Aick said.

Dr David Scott, director of science funding at Cancer Research UK, said: "We do no research with monkeys, dogs or cats. We have strict ethical policies and follow guidelines to ensure that animals are only used where there's no alternative."

CAN THE USE OF ANIMALS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH EVER BE JUSTIFIED?



YES
DAVID PRICE
 SENIOR SCIENTIFIC ADVISER, BRITISH SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH

NO
KATY TAYLOR
 SENIOR SCIENTIFIC ADVISER, BRITISH SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH

DAVID PRICE
 SENIOR SCIENTIFIC ADVISER, BRITISH SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH

The use of animals is never undertaken lightly. Every research project must be approved by Home Office inspectors who are all doctors and vets, and by ethical review committees. Animal research is a last resort and is used alongside other types of research.

In the last month we have seen reports of exciting research in vital areas, including research using mice that showed how the heart may be able to repair itself. A new approach to cancer vaccines has successfully treated prostate tumours in mice.

It is difficult to see how these advances could have been achieved without animal research.

The UK carried out more than 1.6 million animal tests in 2009 yet less than 20 per cent of research is directly testing treatments for serious human diseases. Claims that animal testing will lead to cures for every human ailment are goferal, but there is little scientific evidence to back them up. The differences between test species at these levels make it even more difficult (and dangerous) to use animals. This was evident in the mammalian drug trial disaster in which tests on monkeys at 300 times the standard dose failed to predict the monstrous effects on human trial volunteers. Halting animal testing does not mean halting medical progress.

Its plan for a "rehabilitation revolution" had initially been approved by Cabinet colleagues, including the Prime Minister, last December and was enthusiastically endorsed by Liberal Democrat ministers.

But they ran into savage criticism from Tory right-wingers, and the Justice Secretary last month abruptly halted the backlist in the context of rights.

Downing Street said recently that the discount scheme amounted to a proposal rather than a firm policy. However, accurately as last month Mr Clarke (above) predicted that the proposal was "likely to survive".

Under the original plan, judges would be given more discretion over how long killers should spend in jail, forcing inmates could escape jail as long as they left Britain before and young offenders would have their criminal records expunged at 18.

Justice Cameron to ditch 50% sentence cut proposal

By Nigel Meade
 SENIOR POLITICAL EDITOR

Plans to offer a 50 per cent sentence discount for early guilty pleas from offenders will be scrapped today by David Cameron.

The Prime Minister will confirm a retreat from Kenneth Clarke's controversial scheme, which caused uproar when it emerged that judges and other senior officials could see their jail terms halved.

The Justice Secretary's proposal to increase the current maximum discount from 30 per cent to 50 per cent was halted two weeks ago by Mr Cameron.

Today's move will be seen as another policy reversal ordered by the Prime Minister, but Downing Street believes it is essential to defuse public anger over the policy.

Mr Clarke's sentencing proposals had been designed to save £100m a year because of the reduced numbers of prisoners. Most of the cash is now expected to be re-appropriated from a further squeeze on probation budgets.

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From Wendy Higgins, of Humane Society International. "There are charities you can give money to which do not use animals in their research and we would encourage our people to support them."

Case against Bellfield is 'pure fantasy', Milly Dowler murder trial told

By Richard Doherty

Lawyers representing the double killer Lord Bellfield said the charge that he killed the schoolgirl Milly Dowler is "pure fantasy" as the Old Bailey heard yesterday.

Jeffrey Stansbury QC, representing Bellfield, said evidence had been made to fit following Bellfield's arrest and conviction for two other murders.

Mr Stansbury said virtually all the evidence before the jury was available before, but Bellfield had not been prosecuted. He was now being paraded in front of the jury as "the local serial killer". "But for his convictions, he would not be here," said Mr Stansbury. He added: "The defendant is



that the police are no answer to solving her disappearance now than in 2002". Milly vanished on 20 March 2002 in Station Avenue, Watlington, Oxford, Surrey, as she was walking home from school. The prosecution alleges that Bellfield, left, who was living in a flat there,

abducted and killed her before dumping her body 23 miles away. Bellfield, 41, denies abducting and murdering Milly and maintaining to his April 2004 trial that Cowles the day before. The former wheelchair racer and boxer was arrested in 2004 and convicted in 2006 of the murders of Mary-Ann Donald, 18, in 2002 and Amanda Delagrange, 22, and the attempted murder of Kate Studdy, 16, in 2004.

Bellfield, who now had "nothing to lose", presented them with an opportunity after police were left in an "astonishing position," Mr Stansbury said. The judge, Mr Justice Wilkie, began his summing up by telling the jury that it must reach verdicts "soberly and impartially".

The 19-year-old son and seven months, were expected to retire on Wednesday morning.

Animal rights campaigners 'could set cancer research back decades'

set cancer research back decades

sentence cut proposal

YES

DAVID PROCE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
UNDERSTANDING ANIMAL RESEARCH



The use of animals is never undertaken lightly. Every research project must be approved by Home Office Inspectors who are all doctors and vets, and by ethical review committees. Animal research is a last resort and is used alongside other types of research.

In the last month we have seen reports of exciting research in vital areas, including research using mice that showed how the heart may be able to repair itself. A new approach to cancer vaccines has successfully treated prostate tumours in mice.

It is difficult to see how these advances could have been achieved without animal research.

ICAL RESEARCH EVER BE JUSTIFIED?



NO

KATY TAYLOR
SENIOR SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR, BRITISH UNION FOR ABOLITION OF VIVISECTION

The UK carried out more than 4.6 million animal tests in 2009 yet less than 20 per cent of research is directly testing treatments for serious human diseases. Claims that animal testing will lead to cures for every human illness are overhyped, but there is little scientific evidence to back them up. The differences between species at the level make it even more difficult (and dangerous) to use animals. This was evident in the meningitis trial disaster in which tests on monkeys at 2000 the standard dose failed to predict the massive effects on human trial volunteers. Halting animal testing does not mean halting medical progress.

From Animal Aid urged people to withhold donations until charities promised to stop funding animal experiments.

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Aziz said.

Dr David Scott, director of science heading at Cancer Research UK, said: "We do no research with monkeys.

From Wendy Haggis of Humana Society International. "There are charities you can give money to which

"This is an illogical and ill-conceived campaign," said Lord Willis of Knaresborough, the chairman of the Association of Medical Research Charities. "It will have consequences for charities targeted as, during tight economic times, any small downturn in donations could really put back cures by decades."

Colin Blakemore, a Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Oxford, added: "This is an utterly irresponsible attack by Animal Aid on some of the most important charitable contributors to medical research in this country.

"These charities have a duty to use money given to them to support patients and to understand and treat disease. They support research on animals only when it's absolutely essential. If Animal Aid were successful in discouraging donation to medical charities, they would be guilty of delaying progress towards treatments and cures for devastating conditions."

But Professor Tipu Aziz, who has conducted research using animals as part of his work on Alzheimer's, said it would not have been possible without them. "Medical breakthroughs throughout history have been achieved through animal research," he said. "If you stop animal research you will stop medical progress."

extension for the other murders.

He added: "The defendant is

who was living in a flat there.

member of Kate Steady, 15,

GROUPS IN THE LINE OF FIRE



Organization	Annual Income (2009/2010)	Annual funding for research involving animals (2009/2010)	Species of animal	Comment
CANCER RESEARCH UK	£446m	£334m	Mice, fruit flies, microscopic worms. No trials on monkeys, dogs, cats.	"We have strict ethical policies in relation to animals and follow rigorous government guidelines to ensure that animals are only used where there's no alternative. Millions of people are alive thanks to life-saving treatments for cancer."
British Heart Foundation	£214m	£48.4m	Mice, rats, zebrafish. Sometimes uses "other animals", not specified.	"Research funded by the BHF advances our understanding of the heart and circulatory system in order to improve our ability to prevent, diagnose, monitor and treat cardiovascular disease - saving and improving the lives of those people affected."
Alzheimer's Research UK	£58.7m	£700,000 (approximately)	Maggots, flies, mice and rats. No funds for research on primates.	"Our research aims to move us closer to a cure and improve the quality of life of people with dementia. We strive to ensure that alternatives are used where possible, that the minimum number of animals are used and that researchers keep to the highest welfare standards."
PARKINSON'S UK	£21m	£8m (approximately)	Fruit flies, worms, rodents, zebrafish.	"Experiments involving accurate animal models of Parkinson's are the key to improved drug screening and swifter movement into clinical trials involving humans for the best drugs that will allow people with Parkinson's to lead a normal life, free from its symptoms."

Independent

= Medicine =

Alas, animal experiments are still needed

BRITAIN HAS among the toughest legislation on animal experiments in the world. The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act of 1986 controls any experimental or scientific research

experiment on animals. Animal experiments have played a critical role in just about every medical breakthrough of the last century. They are vital for testing the safety of drugs and vaccines, from common painkillers to advanced anti-cancer treatment. They may not be perfect, and human trials are also vital, but without them medical advances would be seriously hampered. Cancer, strokes, heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's are just some of conditions for which animal experiments have benefited research.

the laboratory. But it will be years before they replace animals. What alarms many is the sharp rise in animal testing over a decade - which reflects the big increase in funding for medical research, public and private. The development of genetically modified animals has also improved understanding of how humans will respond to a treatment.

So we are learning more from animal experiments than in the past. Genetically modified animals accounted for over half of

(Editorial)



Science Media Centre
where science meets the headlines

July 2011

Harlan BUAV infiltration



- **Facility told about infiltration by Sunday paper on Friday**
- **Asked for a 1 week delay**
- **Invited journalist + photographer into facility**
- **Journalist met scientists, looked for themselves**



NEWS

Laboratory dogs let out for 20 minutes a week

Beagles bred for medicine tests are being kept in pens and are rarely allowed out of their wire-mesh pens for exercise

Daniel Foggo and Hannah Kent-Martin Published: 10 July 2011

★ Recommend (3) Comment (1) Print

The firm agreed to allow The Sunday Times access to Wyton after this newspaper approached it with criticisms from one of its former employees. Russell Trigg, 30, worked for Harlan at Wyton and at another of its centres, Hillcrest in Loughborough, as an “animal care technician” for seven weeks last summer.



Beagle dogs behind the caged pens they live in at the Harlan Research facility (Paul Vicente)

The dogs at Harlan appeared fit and healthy and pleased to see visitors, frantically pressing against the wire mesh and wagging their tails. However, anti-vivisection campaigners feel the requirements of the code are inadequate and in need of urgent reform.

Hundreds of dogs at Britain's biggest beagle farm are being kept in wire-mesh pens of a few square metres with minimal daylight and are allowed out to play or breathe fresh air for just 20 minutes a week.



Science Media Centre
where science meets the headlines

June 2014

Cambridge BUAV infiltration



Backs research: Tabrizi Studies vital if we are to end horror

SARAH TABRIZI
Professor of Neurology

THE sheep tests are vital in the fight to cure the "terrible" brain disease, says Prof Sarah Tabrizi. People with an affected parent have a



Saw dad die: Charles If they knew they would back tests

CHARLES SABINE
Huntington's sufferer

AFFLICTED Charles Sabine is in the early stages of Huntington's, which killed his father. The inherited and

EXCLUSIVE BY NICK OWENS AND BEN GLAZE

LAB test sheep at Cambridge University are being left to suffer in pain and misery for pointless experiments, claim animal welfare campaigners.

The helpless creatures are infected with diseases, then their brains are wired up to electrodes while scientists monitor how long it takes them to go blind, lose control of their bodies and eventually die.

And failings in how they are cared for can result in even worse suffering, says a report by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection.

An investigator who worked undercover in the lab at Britain's top university claimed one blind sheep was left sitting in her own faeces for days before she was finally put down. Another animal suffered a broken leg after "rough handling" by a worker.

The experiments are part of research to aid the treatment of Huntington's disease and Batten disease. Both are incurable, fatal conditions of the nervous system.

According to the BUAV report, the sheep testing "did not advance the research for cures", a claim the university denies. Dr Katy Taylor, BUAV's head of science said: "It is clear sheep used in the research suffered greatly and at times unnecessarily."

Their undercover investigator worked inside the university's department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience for two months.

STUMBLING

The sheep used are flown 11,000 miles from New Zealand, before living out their short lives in the lab. The report claims one four-month-old lamb was so ill after the flight it had to be put down at a UK airport.

Healthy ewes are artificially inseminated with sperm from diseased males suffering a Batten-like disease.

Once at the university - where 135,000 animal experiments a year are conducted - they undergo surgery to fit electrodes into their brains so scientists can monitor them.

According to the BUAV, diseased ewes started to lose their sight within six months and become disorientated. Video footage appears to show the creatures stumbling into objects and banging their heads. Many quickly lose weight because they have difficulty eating, it is claimed.

The report, passed to the Sunday Mirror, says: "These signs get progressively worse until the animals die at about two years old."

It also claims researchers failed to provide sufficient night-time and weekend care for animals.

It adds: "One sheep was left in a pitiful state - less than half the normal body weight, virtually blind and lying in faeces - for several days during which she deteriorated further rather than being killed when it was obvious she was suffering gravely."

A Cambridge spokesman promised an investigation and said the university took "very seriously" any allegation of animals being mistreated.

He added: "The University strongly agrees with, and rigidly follows, guiding principles emphasised by the Home Office on the need to refine protocols, keep the numbers of animals used to a minimum and replace the use of animals with other methods where possible.

"We believe good science and good animal welfare go hand in hand. The UK has the most rigorous animal welfare regulations in the world, and Cambridge has always adhered to these."

Sheep infected with disease, brains wired with electrodes, then they wait to die... all in name of science

CAMBRIDGE UNI'S ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS EXPOSED



Test: A lab worker adjusts electrodes fixed to ewe's brain

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Trapped: Lab sheep in tiny pen

Help me: Animal's silent plea

Scientist and patient views

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University of Cambridge statement



Saw dad die: Charles If they knew they would back tests

CHARLES SABINE
Huntington's sufferer

AFFLICTED Charles Sabine is in the early stages of Huntington's, which killed his father.

The inherited and incurable condition causes abnormal movement and dementia.

Charles, 54, said: "There is no more appalling disease to suffer for the patient or the families. It's a complete breakdown of the human condition.

"I absolutely support anything that could even give hope of a treatment. The end absolutely justifies the means."

The sheep were "engaged in a trial of one of the very few real hopes of treatment".

Charles added: "If they (those against the tests) had any idea of what this disease was like, they would never even consider hindering research."



Backs research: Tabrizi Studies vital if we are to end horror

SARAH TABRIZI
Professor of Neurology

THE sheep tests are vital in the fight to cure the "terrible" brain disease, says Prof Sarah Tabrizi.

People with an affected parent have a 50:50 chance of getting Huntington's, which strikes at around 40.

Prof Tabrizi, based at London's National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, said: "Scientists have to try to model the disease in animals if there is to be any hope of treatment.

"Animals such as the sheep in Cambridge are perfect - they will help us develop ways to switch off the abnormal gene.

"The reason scientists use sheep is that, unlike rodents, the size of a sheep's brain is nearer to that of the human."

Treatment for Huntington's would have a big impact on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, she said.



In peace time....

- Taking the media into animal facilities brings great coverage**
- Balances coverage from BUAV infiltrations**



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13 October 2013

Robin McKie at King's College London

Feature

The ethics of animal tests: inside the lab where marmosets are given Parkinson's

As a national debate is launched on animal research, Robin McKie meets the London scientists whose work goes to the heart of an ethical controversy

Robin McKie, science editor

Sunday 13 October 2013 00.06 BST



Shares 479 | Comments 203



The common marmoset, which is native to the northeast coast of Brazil. Photograph: David Seawell/Alamy

The marmosets in Room One of the animal laboratories of King's College London are typical of their species. They are lively and curious. No bigger than small cats



Science Media Centre
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15 March 2014

Tom Whipple at Harlan breeders

Feature

Defences come down as animal testers dare to say they're proud




Tom Whipple Science Correspondent
Published at 12:01AM, March 15 2014

A room of 100 three-week-old beagles is a room of shambolic, stumbling, blinking cuteness. Training the puppies, however, is a rather more orderly process.

One after another, beagles are asked to sit, stand and offer their forelimb. Then they move to the more advanced training: offering up their jugular — so they can get used to having blood taken: sitting

The beagles are allowed at least 20 minutes playtime outside a week
handout

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28 January 2014

Fergus Walsh at Oxford University

Feature



BBC News at 10



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15 September 2015

The Sun at Harlan breeders

Feature

2,000 DOGS A YEAR SOLD FOR MEDICAL TESTING

EXCLUSIVE by
CHERRY WILSON

AN ADORABLE puppy scampers over, tail wagging and head raised, looking like he wants to have his chin tickled.

But this little beagle is not seeking affection – he has been trained to show his neck so blood can be taken from his jugular.

His name is W58999 and he will spend his short life in a laboratory being experimented on then killed in the name of medical research.

He is not alone. W58999 is one of 2,000 beagles a year sold for experiments by the controversial and secretive Harlan facility in Huntingdon, Cambs – currently the only major farm in the UK that breeds beagles for medical testing.

Beagles are used because as a breed they are small and docile.

Harlan is often on the sharp end of attacks from animal rights groups, angered by what they consider the cruel and barbaric treatment of man's best friend.

The Sun was given rare access to Harlan as the base of animal testing is thrust back in the news following Government approval for another beagle-breeding laboratory in East Berkshire.

The facility in Crimston will house 500 dogs and 150 puppies, plus ferrets to be sold for experiments. A petition to reverse the decision already has more than 500,000 signatures.

Harlan is 23 buildings sprawled on land protected by trees and barbed wire. The farm houses around 1,600 dogs at any one time, including 500 females and 35 males specifically for breeding.

Only the breeding dogs are given names. The rest are identified by a clinical number tattooed on the inside of its ear.

'Dogs are trained for their life in a lab'

Entering the grounds, Harlan could easily be mistaken for a rescue centre. Hundreds of dogs are yapping and playing in their spacious metal cages.

"Here" leaps up excitedly and her tail wags non-stop as I kneel by her pen. She does not so much as growl when I pick up one of the six pups she gave birth to just two days earlier.

Just like other dogs, the beagles here are trained – but for a wholly different purpose.

They are taught to be handled from an early age in preparation for their life in a lab.

From the age of 16 weeks they will be sold on for up to £1,600 per animal to universities and pharmaceutical companies, who will use them for all manner of experiments.

The law states that all new medicines must be tested on two animals before being allowed on the market – one rodent and one non-rodent, commonly a dog.

Latest figures show that a total of 3,554 dogs were used in 4,770 experiments in 2013, an increase of



TRUSTING... a beagle is trained to offer its neck for blood-testing. Above, dogs peer through their cages at the Harlan beagle breeding farm

'Process is for safety of public'

FOR CLIVE PAGE

Pharmacology editor

I've been in medical research for 30 years. I recently worked on a new drug for the treatment of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

As part of the process of making sure it's safe for man we commissioned experiments on dogs.

You can't just take people off the street and give them the drug straight away.

This process is for the safety of the public. We don't do these experiments on animals because we want to.

A lot of people, including me, spend their lives looking for alternatives to animals, but a single cell is not the same as a whole organism.

A dog is critical to this evaluation, it's not a trivial thing to do. We don't go to Battersea Park or drag the dogs off the streets.

These opposed to animal testing say science has delivered computer simulation and cell culture, but these things are complementary, not alternatives.

No one is saying it is a perfect model but it is the best we have today.

It's a big decision to find a new drug and to be confident to put it into a human.

The reason I can be confident is because we've relied on animal experiments.

If dog experiments were stopped, without a viable alternative, you'd stop new medicine being developed.

'Cruel, outdated and unreliable'

AGAINST VANESSA MAE

Cruelty Free Ambassador

I HAVE a strong affinity for animals – I share my life with my dog Max.

Dogs are loyal, trusting and forgiving. So it's upsetting to learn that they continue to be used in their thousands in experiments here in the UK.

These dogs will never roll in the grass or even see the sky, as most will spend their short lives imprisoned inside.

They will never enjoy the love and affection of a human family. Instead, they are subjected to tests that will cause them to suffer.

These gentle, social, intelligent and sensitive animals are being betrayed in their thousands by us humans, the very ones they look to for affection and reassurance.

It is an offence to poison

Inside the secretive farm where beagles are bred to die



- **Media climate for animal research has been completely transformed**
- **Never been a better time to be open about animal research**
- **Now reputational risk comes from hiding research or hampering medical science**



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14 May 2014

Concordat on Openness on Animal Research

News Briefing and Roundup



Science Media Centre news briefing

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 00.01 UK TIME WEDNESDAY 14th MAY 2014

What? Concordat on Openness on Animal Research

When? 10.30am Tuesday 13th May

Where? The Wellcome Trust, 215 Euston Road, NW1 2BE

The scientific community has spent many years being afraid to talk about animal research for fear of becoming the target of animal rights extremism. Following the continued championing of a few brave exceptions and recognising the need to engage with the public on this vital aspect of scientific work, the community decided something needed to change.

In October 2012 over 40 bioscience organisations declared that they would commit to a Concordat on Openness. Since that date they have been seeking the opinions of the public, the scientific community and journalists as to what steps need to be taken and what others feel openness means.

Speakers include:

Dr Jeremy Farrar, Director of the Wellcome Trust

Simon Gillespie, Chief Executive, British Heart Foundation

Wendy Jarrett, Chief Executive, Understanding Animal Research

Dr Louise Leong, Director of Research and Development Policy, ABPI

Prof Nic Wells, Chair of the Society of Biology's Animal Science Group and Professor in Translational Medicine, Royal Veterinary College

Prof Sir John Savill, Chief Executive, Medical Research Council (MRC)

Geoff Watts, Broadcaster, Chair of Concordat Steering Group



Briefing attendees

Kate Kelland	Reuters
Fiona MacRae	Daily Mail
Tom Feilden	BBC Today
Daniel Cressey	Nature
Hannah Devlin	Times
John von Radowitz	PA
Martin Bagot	Daily Mirror
Ingrid Torjesen	BMJ

Drug firms and medical charities pledge greater openness on animal experiments

Ian Sample
Science correspondent

Drug companies, universities and medical charities will release more detailed information on the scientific experiments they perform on animals, under an agreement announced today.

More than 70 UK organisations have signed the concordat on openness in animal research, which compels them to be clear on why, how and when animals are used in experiments, and to explain the benefits, harms and limitations of the research.

Those who signed the pledge - including the major biomedical research funders, the Wellcome Trust, the Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK, and the pharmaceutical companies GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Lilly - must post information about animal experiments on their websites and explain their efforts to minimise the use of animals through the 3Rs: replacement, refinement and reduction.

Last year 4.11m scientific "procedures" were carried out on lab animals in the UK, three-quarters of which involved mice. Breeding genetically modified animals, to understand how particular genes work, for example, accounted for 40%-50% of experiments. It is illegal to use animals in the UK if alternatives can lead to comparable research data.

Wendy Jarrett, chief executive of Understanding Animal Research, said the agreement was a response to polls that suggested the public supported animal

research but wanted more information on how animals were used.

"The concordat is intended to give the public more information and ensure that the information they get is accurate and honest, so they can make their own minds up, and make informed decisions about how they feel," Jarrett said.

The concordat sets out four commitments which require signatories to be clear about their use of animals in research; to work more closely with the media and public; to be proactive in explaining the value and limitations of animal research; and to report annually on their progress. There is no overarching enforcement of the agreement.

Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust, said: "Almost all of the most important advances in medicine have relied on information gained from animal

experiments, and this field of research remains critical to driving the improvements in human and animal health which our funding seeks to support. But like all research, animal experiments should proceed with the consent of society, and that requires openness about how and why they take place."

Though some animal rights groups welcomed any move to greater openness, many were critical, and said it gave organisations too much control over the information they choose to release. Under the agreement, signatories can withhold all information they claim is commercially sensitive.

The use of animals in scientific research in Britain is overseen by the Home Office, but the government is not allowed to disclose any information it receives in confidence from scientists under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act. The Home Office is reviewing section 24 of the act in the hope of improving transparency.

Michelle Thew, at the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, said: "Those supporting animal research, the signatories to this concordat, are perfectly entitled to roll out a public relations strategy explaining their support for animal research.

"What they should not do is tell the public that this is the same thing as genuine transparency. The concordat approach is simply transparency on their terms."

The animal rights organisation Peta branded the concordat a smokescreen which "would allow animal experimenters to determine what they will hide from and what they will share with the public".



Monkeys are among the many animals used in scientific experiments



Scientists, drugmakers, charities sign UK deal on animal research

Tue May 13, 2014 8:01pm EDT

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* Deal pledges more openness about experiments on animals

* Britons broadly supportive, but want to know more

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* Four million animal experiments carried out in UK in 2012

By [Kate Kelland](#), Health and Science Correspondent

LONDON, May 14 (Reuters) - More than 70 medical bodies in Britain including Big Pharma's Pfizer, [GlaxoSmithKline](#) and AstraZeneca have signed a pledge to be more open about their use of animals in scientific experiments.

The Concordat on Openness on Animal Research was published on Wednesday after



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95 UK organisations have so far signed the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research



Universities, charities, commercial companies, research councils, umbrella bodies and learned societies have all committed to help the public understand more about animal research.





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