

ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES SPEAK



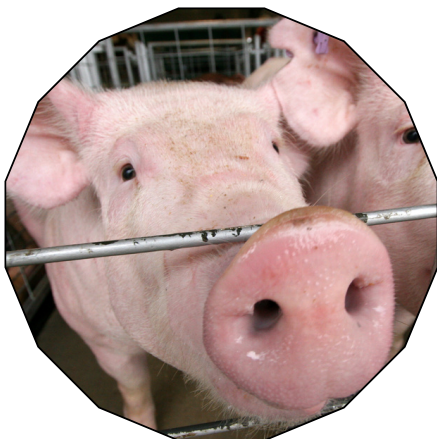
CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY SCIENCES

ABOUT

ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES



Over the past 20 years, an estimated 2 billion plus animals in the U.S. alone have been used in experimentation or to supply the biomedical industry. Every year, more than 100 million animals are used in experimentation in the U.S. The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is the only U.S. federal statute that regulates the treatment of animals used in experiments. However, it excludes >95% of animals used. Additionally, even for the species which are covered, the AWA provides no limits on the type of experimentation or on the degree of suffering an animal may experience.



Even though the U.S. public is increasingly opposed to experimentation on animals and animal testing is shown to be unreliable and misleading in informing human health, the numbers of animals used in the U.S. remain at a steady high. Animals, including dogs, cats, birds, mice, rats, non-human primates, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, fish, and pigs are used by governmental agencies, universities and private companies for drug, vaccine, cosmetics, food, and chemical experimentation and for basic research that include behavioral experiments, shock experiments, basic disease research, and neuropsychological experiments. Much of this experimentation is funded by our tax dollars.

Flip through to learn more about the animals used in experiments.

CATS IN LABORATORIES



In 2019, per the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports, almost 20,000 cats were used in experiments and held in laboratories in the U.S. Researchers frequently use cats in spinal cord and head injury experiments, even though their use has led to no effective treatment against these injuries in humans. Because the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) allows experimenters to deny animals pain medication and anesthesia if they feel doing so will interfere with their research, almost 50,000 animals, including cats, dogs, and nonhuman primates were reported as being used in painful experiments in 2019 without being given any pain medications. This number does not include the many more animals who are not covered under the AWA and not reported.

Did you know that cats know their names? This study found that many cats recognize their names when called by their human guardians.

DOGS IN LABORATORIES



Beagles are the most commonly used dogs in experimentation because they are trusting and gentle. Large institutional dog breeding companies breed beagles and other dogs in puppy-mill conditions before selling them to laboratories. Dogs are frequently de-barked to silence them in laboratories.

[Did you know](#) that research in which dogs volunteer for non-harmful MRI imaging is uncovering just how much dogs love the company of their beloved humans?

RABBITS IN LABORATORIES



Rabbits are used in a variety of experiments, including skin and eye toxicity tests in which chemicals and other products are rubbed onto their skin or into their eyes. These toxicity tests are extremely painful and cause tremendous suffering in rabbits and continue even though there are many more effective alternatives available.

[Did you know](#) that rabbits are some of the most common characters in children's books, including the beloved Velveteen Rabbit and Peter Rabbit series because children often identify with and feel a special closeness with rabbits and other animals?

PRIMATES IN LABORATORIES



Rhesus macaques are the most common nonhuman primates (NHPs) used in experimentation. They are often used in experiments under the belief that they more accurately mimic human biology than other animals. However, frequent analyses have shown that despite the similarities with humans in some regards, NHPs are misleading as "models" for human diseases, including HIV, and Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Almost 70,000 NHPs were used in experiments in 2019. NHPs are either bred in U.S. facilities or imported from areas like South Africa, Vietnam, and Mauritius. NHPs commonly show abnormal stereotypic behaviors in labs, such as pacing and self-biting, which are signs of confinement and distress.

[Did you know](#) that NHP mothers often carry their infants after they have died for up to months, suggesting strong maternal grief?

FERRETS IN LABORATORIES



The total number of ferrets used in the U.S. is not separately reported by the USDA, however ferrets are some of the most used animals in respiratory and infectious disease experiments. Because ferrets cough, they can easily spread respiratory infections to one another. Ferrets are deliberately infected with dangerous pathogens, such as Ebolavirus, that can cause intense suffering and pain. Many times, they are given no pain relief because researchers state the pain relief would interfere with their study outcomes.

[Did you know](#) that April 2nd is National Ferret Day? The day was developed to dispel misunderstanding about these animals, to highlight their gentle, affectionate, and helpful nature, and to bring attention to the threatened species?

SHEEP IN LABORATORIES



Yes, sheep are also used in experiments, particularly for forced inhalation and third-degree burn experiments. Other types of experiments conducted include depriving pregnant sheep of adequate oxygen for prolonged periods of time, cloning, and bone injury and repair. When used in agricultural experiments, sheep and other farmed animals are exempt from any protection under the Animal Welfare Act.

[Did you know](#) that in 2020, Gigi a rescued lamb, was featured in People magazine for the friendship she formed with Merlin, a disabled duck?

PIGS IN LABORATORIES



In 2019, more than 50,000 pigs were used in experimentation in the U.S. One of the most cited uses of pigs are for wound healing and reconstructive surgery. For these experiments, pigs may be burned alive, shot with bullets, dismembered, and subjected to radiation burns. Miniature pigs were developed in the 1950s and are selectively bred for their small size and gentleness. Their small size makes it easier to house miniature pigs in laboratories and they are now frequently used in toxicity experiments, in addition to mice and rats.

Did you know that pigs are not only highly emotional beings, but they can also have more pessimistic or optimistic personality traits and that their moods can be affected by their surroundings?



It is estimated that more than 100 million mice and rats alone are used in experiments in the U.S. each year. Yet due to lack of transparency, the U.S. government does not report how many mice and rats are used, or how they are used. In fact, the word "animal" in the Animal Welfare Act was specifically defined to exclude rats, mice, birds, and many other animals due to heavy lobbying by the biomedical research industry. Thus, these animals are given no federal protection. As a result, mice, rats, and other exempt animals are forced to endure some of the most harmful experiments that cause intense suffering. These little animals are electrocuted, drowned, and have had their heads cut off live with scissors and other devices.

[Did you know](#) that rats "giggle" when being tickled and mice, like humans, express emotions such as disgust, happiness, and fear through different facial expressions?

BIRDS IN LABORATORIES



Like mice, rats, reptiles, invertebrates, and animals used in agricultural experiments, birds are exempt from the Animal Welfare Act. Thus, it is unknown how many birds are used in laboratories every year. Birds are frequently used in academic centers for basic research. Songbirds have frequently been captured from the wild, locked into barren cages, restrained, given brain damage, and killed in neurophysiology experiments.

[Did you know](#) that a family of magpies recently outwitted human researchers in Australia by helping each other remove the tracking harnesses that were placed on them in what could be a sign of altruistic behavior?



It is estimated that, globally, more than [200 million animals are experimented on every year](#). However, because many countries like the U.S. have little transparency in this regard, there is a real possibility that this number is an underestimation. Despite varying regulations throughout the world, the sad fact is that most animals are given very little protection. Animals in laboratories worldwide endure lifelong captivity, are involved in harmful, painful, invasive, and psychologically distressing experiments, and are eventually killed.

[Did you know](#) that the public is increasingly concerned about and opposed to animal experimentation, according to both [Gallup](#) and the [PEW Research Center](#)? Learn more about how the [Center for Contemporary Sciences](#) is supporting the replacement of animal experiments with more human-relevant, effective, and kinder research and testing methods.

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