

ANIMAL TESTING - THE UGLY TRUTH

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Have you ever been in a situation where you go shopping with your mom, and you really want to buy a cool t-shirt. But she refuses and instead buys you a boring shirt? How do you feel at that time? Is it powerless, suppressed, and frustrated, because your right to wear what you want has been snatched from you, and someone else is deciding for you? animals go through the same feeling every day! Although, we are not making their wardrobe choices for them but something worse: we are deciding their fate.



What is animal testing?

Animal testing is a procedure, wherein animals are used for research on how living beings might react to a drug, various diseases, cosmetics, etc. These are inhumane

experiments. Just imagine, putting an irritant in a bunny's eye at very high doses to find how much it takes to make it blind, and then disposing of that impaired bunny. How ruthless can we be? why don't we react to the solemn tears running down the cheeks of these bunnies? Are we so stone-hearted that we can't feel for their whimpering souls? Are we so selfish that we would make innocent bodies sick to find a cure for our eyes?

Each year, more than 100 million animals are killed in the US alone due to animal testing. Imagine the number of deaths if we record the data for all countries. Even if you are not particularly fond of

animals or a pet owner, you can't deny the torture these creatures go through.

Is animal testing even beneficial for humans?

One might deny the torture, saying it is essential for furthering science. But is the science behind animal testing even effective? According to Cruelty Free International, animal testing is mostly pointless because animals don't develop the same diseases as humans do. In fact, data shows that animal studies fail to predict real human outcomes in 50 to 99.7% of the cases.

The Human Society says that "different species can respond differently when exposed to the same chemicals." Hence, the results many of the scientists yield may be irrelevant as they won't be showing the impact of a certain kind of drug on the human species.

Furthermore, recently, researchers from the Yale School of Medicine and several British universities published a paper in *The BMJ* titled "Where Is the Evidence That Animal Research Benefits Humans?" The researchers systematically examined studies that used animals and concluded that little evidence exists to support the idea that experimentation on animals has benefited humans.

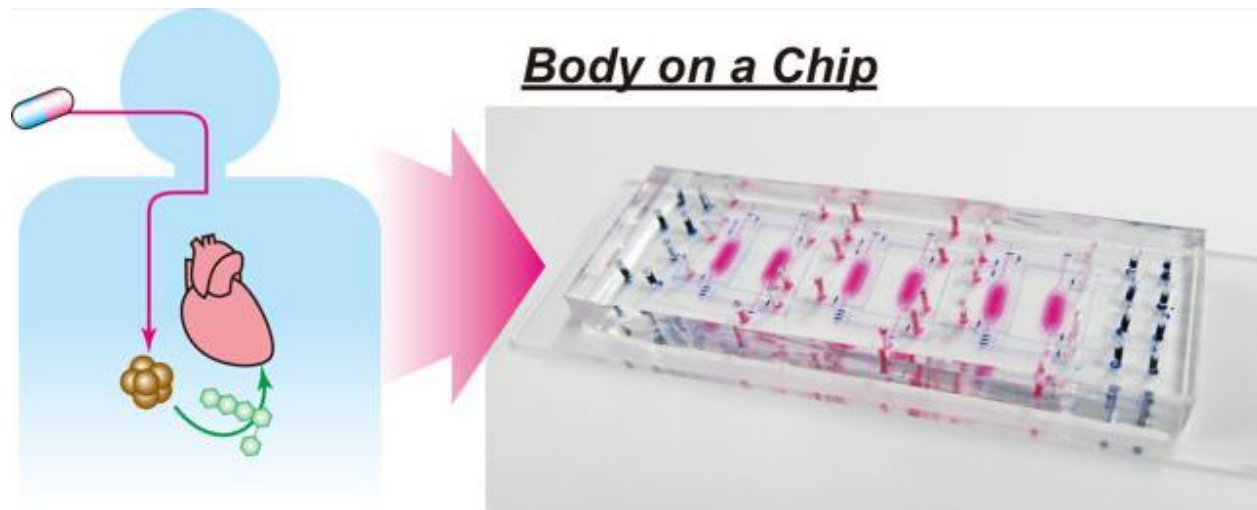
So, given its inefficacy, why do we still use animals for drug testing you might ask. This is because we are continually misinformed by the media, experimenters, and universities who exaggerated the benefits of animal testing in the past products.

Are there any alternatives to animal testing?

We still have a chance to rectify our actions. The advancement in technology can help us cross the bridge from despair to hope.

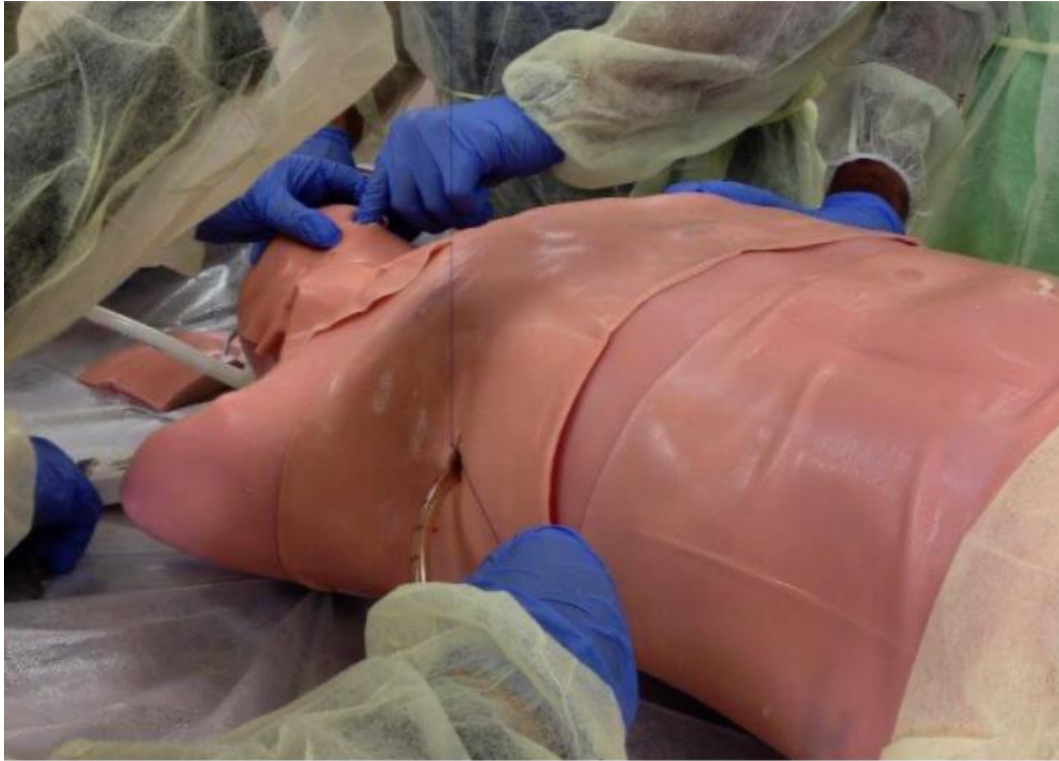
Some of these methods include the In Vitro Testing, computer modeling, computerized human patient simulators, etc.

In Vitro Testing: scientists have created “organs on chips” that hold the human cells. These cells are grown on those chips to replicate the human organs. This can help eradicate the use of animals for disease research and drug testing.



Computer Modeling: Researchers have developed some computer models that can help predict the effect of a new drug on a human body.

Computerized human patient simulators: these machines have the ability to breathe, bleed, talk and even die. With the help of these, students can learn physiology without the need to cut animals.



Conclusion

Animal testing is a cruel practice and has been going on unnecessarily and unethically for many generations. Now that we have become conscious of its cruelty, we ought to push for suspending this process. With the support of technology and the spectacular methods it has to offer, we can certainly help animals get back their rights and freedom! Let's together promote the use of technology-oriented alternatives to replace the requirement of animals for biological research and live in harmony with nature!

Citations:

<https://www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-experimentation/animal-testing-bad-science/>

<https://interestingengineering.com/science/is-it-time-to-end-animal-testing-how-technology-can-replace-animals>

<https://www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-experimentation/alternatives-animal-testing/>