

# BEHIND THE LAB DOORS: UNDERSTANDING ANIMAL TESTING

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We often try to get the best possible products that are of good quality and economical as well. But what we often overlook is how they're being manufactured, how the scientists make sure that the product is suitable for human skin, how the products are being tested. Many people find animals as their companions and a source of comfort and happiness but on the flip side some people find them as a means of intensifying experimental research or advancing medical techniques. Animals are used in testing of many products like drugs, medical products, cosmetics, household products, etc. A very recent example of this is the testing of Covid-19 vaccines. When the people all around the world were sitting at home, hoping for a vaccine or an antibiotic to be made, and animals were trapped inside the cages in the labs on which the vaccines were being tested. Obviously, the humans get benefitted from the animal experimentation but the pain, suffering and death, the animals suffer is not worth the possible human benefits.

Animals and human beings are alike when it comes to feeling, thinking, behaving and experiencing pain. But animals are not given a choice when it comes to experimentation. They are exposed to tests that are too painful and can cause permanent damage or death. They scream in pain, suffer from frustration, long to be free from the cages, but, they don't get the right to be free.



All they can do is remain dreadful, until next torture is performed. Lack of environment they're used to and the stress of the situation they're stuck in causes neurotic disorders which makes them behave in a weird way, like spinning in circles, pulling their own fur, biting themselves and many more. Rats are made to inhale toxic fumes, dogs are made to feed on pesticides and corrosive chemicals are dripped in rabbits' eyes. Ironically, if a product is proved to be safe for animals, it however, never guarantees to be safe for humans.

Non-animal tests are available to replace animal testing, which is cruel, expensive, and violates animal rights. These alternatives include advanced computer modeling techniques, sophisticated tests using human cells and tissues, and research results from human volunteers. However, despite the availability of alternatives, animal testing continues, leading to the torture of animals. Increased awareness and education are needed to inform people about the products they use. Developing healthcare and quality of life for humans should not come at the expense of thousands of animal lives. Animals should be treated with respect and equality, like humans.