

THOUGHT COSMETIC TESTING WAS A THING OF THE PAST?

Think again!

One of the most unjustifiable uses of animals in research is for cosmetic and product testing. We have an abundance of safe products already on the market. Subjecting animals to pain and suffering for the sake of our own vanity is inexcusable.

The tests

In order to test the irritancy, toxicity, carcinogenicity and teratogenicity (resulting in deformed offspring) of non-essential products like a new lipstick, shampoo or toilet cleaner, animals are subjected to very cruel and painful tests. These can include administration of the compound being tested by applying to abraded skin, application to the eyes, orally and intravenously. Aside from the obvious pain caused by these procedures, stress is also caused from handling, restraint and other routine laboratory procedures.

Intricate differences in the absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion (ADME) of chemicals between different species make animals inappropriate models to predict human outcomes.

What makes the issue even more unjust is that alternatives to these tests already exist and have proven to be more predictive of human reactions.

The situation in Australia

Sadly, many people assume that this type of research is no longer conducted, and generally speaking, cosmetic and product testing does not occur in Australia.

Whilst it is not explicitly 'banned' in all states, it would not accord with the justification requirements of the Code, and thus would be illegal.

The problem is however, that the vast majority of products lining our supermarket shelves are from overseas countries which do test on animals.



Overseas

Many companies continue to test on animals in countries such as the United States, China and Brazil, either because the regulatory authorities require it, or because the companies themselves choose to continue animal testing despite effective and safe alternatives being readily available. In these countries there is limited public scrutiny, and animals continue to have cosmetic chemicals forced down their throats, dripped into their eyes and applied to their shaved skin, sometimes in doses high enough to kill. China is one of the few countries in the world which requires such testing by law. This position goes against the global trend to end the **barbaric practice of animal testing**, and provides another reason for companies not to cease the practice as they seek to maximise profits by selling into the lucrative Chinese market.

In 2013, Europe will introduce a ban on selling new animal-tested cosmetics. This ban could potentially force cosmetic companies who still test on animals to revolutionise their approach, given Europe is the world's largest cosmetic market. Chinese regulators are also beginning to show interest in non-animal alternatives. **If China embraces this opportunity to modernise its testing, it will switch from being an obstacle to ending animal testing to being a vital part of the solution.**

(Overseas info provided by HSI)

HRA joins with international groups

In collaboration with **Choose Cruelty Free**, HRA is working with a number of international groups to call for a **global boycott of products that have been tested on animals**. By joining forces we hope to create a strong united voice against animal testing.

What you can do

- One of the easiest and most important things you can do to help end product testing is to **NEVER purchase any cosmetic or household product that has been tested on animals. To find out which products are genuinely 'cruelty free' you can check CCF's Preferred Product List. They also have an app you can download to ensure your list is always with you when shopping.**
- **Write to, call, or email Tanya Plibersek to call for a ban.**
The Hon Tanya Plibersek, Federal Minister for Health, PO box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600. Phone: 02 9379 0700, Email: Minister.Plibersek@health.gov.au
- Subscribe to our email list.
- Become a member of HRA.
- Become a monthly donor.



1 Name and contact details

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Email:

Phone Day: Mobile:

Phone Evening:

2 Payment details

I am paying by: Cheque/Money Order Mastercard Visa

Number:

Expiry Date: CCV No:

Name on card:

Signature:

3 I would like to make a regular monthly donation of:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Other per month until further notice.

I understand that this payment can be stopped by me at any time.

4 I would like to make a once off donation of:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$.....

5 I would like to become a member:

\$25

