



humane research australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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WORLD WEEK FOR ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

April 21st - 29th marks the annual World Week for Animals in Laboratories. The week aims to highlight the plight of **over a hundred million animals** who continue to suffer unethical, inhumane & unnecessary experimentation in research laboratories across the world.

Latest available annual statistics indicate **over 6.5 million animals used for research in Australian laboratories**, an increase in numbers from the previous year, and a worrying indicator that the Australian Government & scientific research community clearly are not committed to reducing and ultimately replacing animals used in research. HRA believes Australia, in the 21st century, has the opportunity to be leading the way towards a cruelty-free future that relies on ethical, effective & species-specific scientific research that truly benefits humans & animals alike, rather than persisting with the current archaic system of cruelty.

Chief Executive Officer, Helen Marston, said today *“Sadly, many people are unaware of the extent of animal experimentation within Australia, and falsely believe that it is necessary if we are to find cures for diseases. This popular misconception has allowed the suffering of millions of animals to continue unabated behind closed doors.”*

Recent examples of animal experimentation in Australia include:

- **Silicone breast implants in pigs**
- **Alcohol given to pregnant sheep**
- **Rats forced to consume ecstasy, marijuana and methamphetamine**

“Fortunately, there are now many alternatives that not only spare animals from the laboratory, but also provide improved outcomes for human disease. The Australian public deserve better. For far too long the tax payers of this country have been funding antiquated & unnecessary research on animals that has proven to be unreliable when extrapolated to human health. Ms Marston concluded.

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