



MEDIA RELEASE

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TOO MANY ANIMALS WASTED IN FUTILE EXPERIMENTS

Approximately 5.3 million animals were used in research and teaching in the last recorded year (2005). Even more alarmingly, Australia experiments on more animals per capita than other nations including the UK.

	Human population (July 07)	No. of animals used	Animals used per capita
European Union	490,426,000	12.1 million (2005)	0.025
United Kingdom	60,776,000	2.89 million (2005)	0.048
New Zealand	4,116,000	318,489 (2006)	0.077
Australia	20,440,000	5.3 million (2005)	0.259

Chief Executive Officer, Helen Rosser, said today *“These figures suggest that Australia sadly lags well behind other countries in terms of embracing non-animal alternatives, has no commitment to the 3R’s principle (Replace, Reduce and Refine) and continues with archaic methods despite the growing evidence that non-animal technologies are far more humane and provide more accurate and scientifically-valid data.”*

Types of research conducted recently in Australia include:

- Marmoset monkeys having their skulls sawn to insert electrodes to measure visual activity in the brain - Monash University.
- Pregnant sheep fed alcohol and then killed to examine the affect on their fetuses (despite this information already being well –established in humans) – University of Adelaide.
- Anaesthetised rabbits having their throats cut for cardiac students from Monash University to administer drugs and monitor their reaction (despite this lesson being available on video).
- Rats fed beer by psychology students at University of Sydney to determine their preference to sucrose water (the experiment did not produce any conclusive results).

2005 figures for Australia have dropped since the previous year, however while 2006 statistics have not yet been released by all states, preliminary data received to date indicates that there will be a significant increase in the next reported year. Western Australia, for example, has quadrupled from 513,747 (2005) to 2,181,043 (2006), and South Australian figures more than doubled from 150,747 (2005) to 378,889 (2006).

“It’s imperative that Australia discontinues such unethical and wasteful research if we genuinely seek medical progress.” **Ms Rosser concluded.**

Detailed breakdowns of the statistics can be obtained from <http://www.aahr.org.au/statistics.html>
Details of the above experiments are at <http://www.aahr.org.au/experiments/index.html>

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