

TOXBANK Public Forum

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An Ethical Perspective

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[End Animal Testing]



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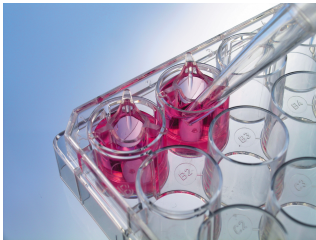


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THE HUMANE SOCIETY
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About HSI and our affiliates



Research and Toxicology Department actively engaged with:

- The Be Cruelty-Free campaign: ending cosmetics testing world-wide
- OECD Test Guidelines, Chemicals & AOP development programs
- EU Competent Authorities for REACH and Classification and Labelling
- European Chemicals Agency Member State Committee, Endocrine Disruptors Expert Group, etc.
- USTR Trade and Environment Policy Committee & TTIP negotiations
- NTP Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods
- European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives (EURL-ECVAM)
- European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing
- International Cooperation on Cosmetics Regulation & national laws
- International Conference on Harmonization (via ICAPPP)
- Human Toxicology Project Consortium
- Implementation of EU Directive 2010/63
- Replacing animals used in biomedical research
- ... and many others



Statistics on Animal Use UK 2014

- 3.87 million procedures were completed;
- 8% (150 thousand) were assessed as severe;
- Tox studies frequently require death as an endpoint.

Severe classification (EU categories) includes:

- (i) use of metabolic cages involving severe restriction of movement over a prolonged period;
- (j) inescapable electric shock (e.g. to produce learned helplessness);
- (k) complete isolation for prolonged periods of social species e.g. dogs and non-human primates;
- (l) immobilisation stress to induce gastric ulcers or cardiac failure in rats;
- (m) forced swim or exercise tests with exhaustion as the end-point.



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Public Opinion: IPSOS/MORI Survey

Attitudes to animal research in 2014



Commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS):

- 68% agree acceptable *'so long as it is for medical research purposes and there is no alternative'*;
- 37% endorse use of animals for all types of research;
- 69% can accept such research *'as long as there is no unnecessary suffering to the animals'*;
- Almost a quarter of the public (23%) believe that the UK Government **should ban the use of animals for any form of research.**



Ethical approaches: 3Rs at EU Level

- Treaty for the Functioning of the European Union, 2009
- Article 13: animals defined as sentient beings
- Animal welfare a “**European Value**”
- Animal Welfare Action Plan (broad strategy)
- **Directive 2010/63: 3Rs legal requirement**
- Product safety laws: comply/complement
- 2015 Citizens’ Initiative “Stop Vivisection”
- 2016 EU Commission conference
- Questioning validity, evaluating plans





EU Directive 2010/63 EU: 3Rs Requirements + Drivers

1) 3Rs implementation

- Required by law
 - Includes breeders, suppliers and users
 - Covers housing, procedures, euthanasia

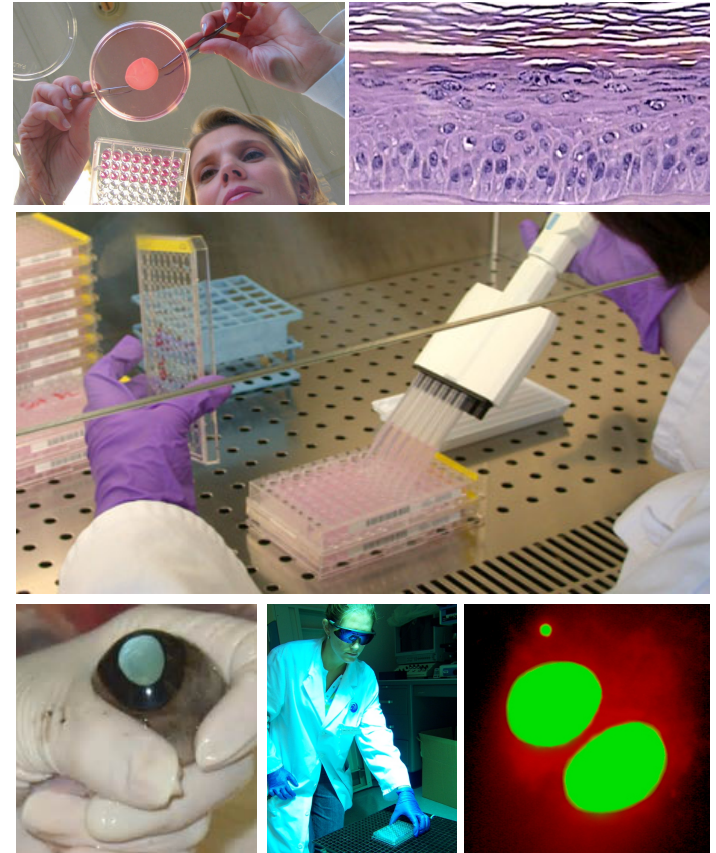
2) 3Rs innovation

- European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL includes ECVAM)
 - Extended remit from reg. tox to biomedical

- Network of contact points

Member State contributions

- Strategy setting, national and EU
- Promote development and uptake





EU product safety legislation: supporting 3Rs

1) 2006 'REACH' chemicals regulation

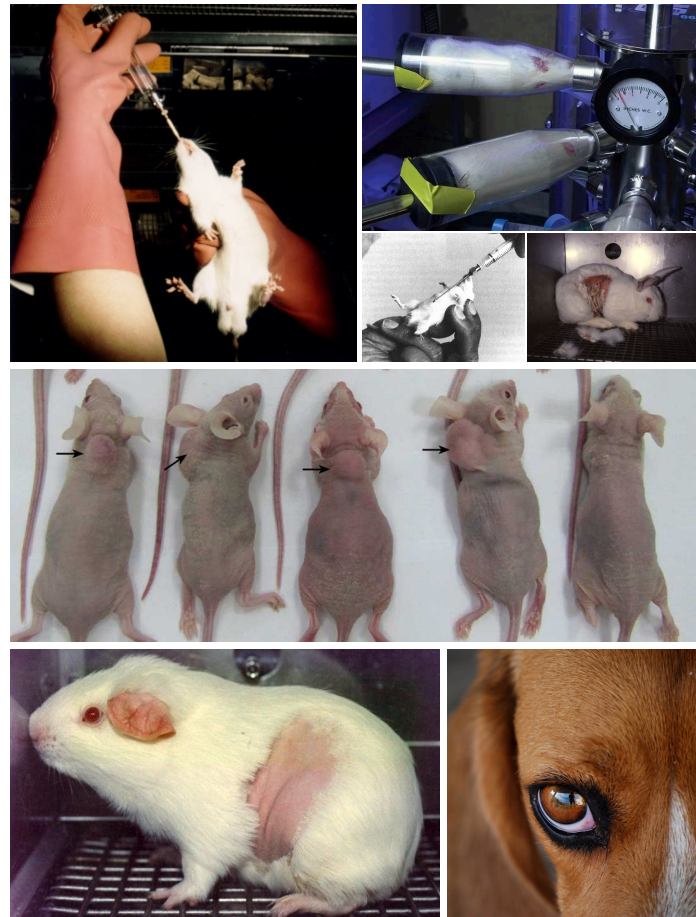
- lists 'promotion of alternative methods for assessment of hazards' as one of three main objectives
- requires data-sharing, one substance one registration (OSOR)
- Requires updates to test requirements
- Requires updates to list of accepted tests

2) 2003 cosmetics directive "7th Amendment"

- Phase out animal testing, phase in marketing ban (complete 2009 + 2013)

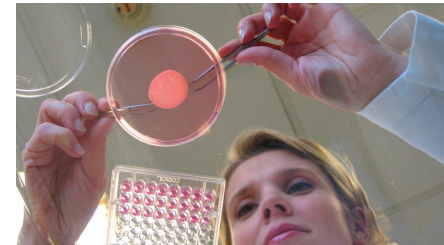
4) 2012 biocides reg. and pesticide data requirements

- 3Rs best practice, data sharing



Drug development without animals?

- 95% new drugs deemed safe and effective in animal studies fail at clinical trial stage.
- Toxicology undergoing transformation: 2007 US National Institutes of Health, “Toxicology for the 21st Century”;
- Efficacy testing under growing scrutiny:
 - Asthma: two new classes of drugs in 50 years;
 - MS: 99% candidate medicines failed;
 - AD: no progress . . .



(Photo credits: MatTek; NIH)

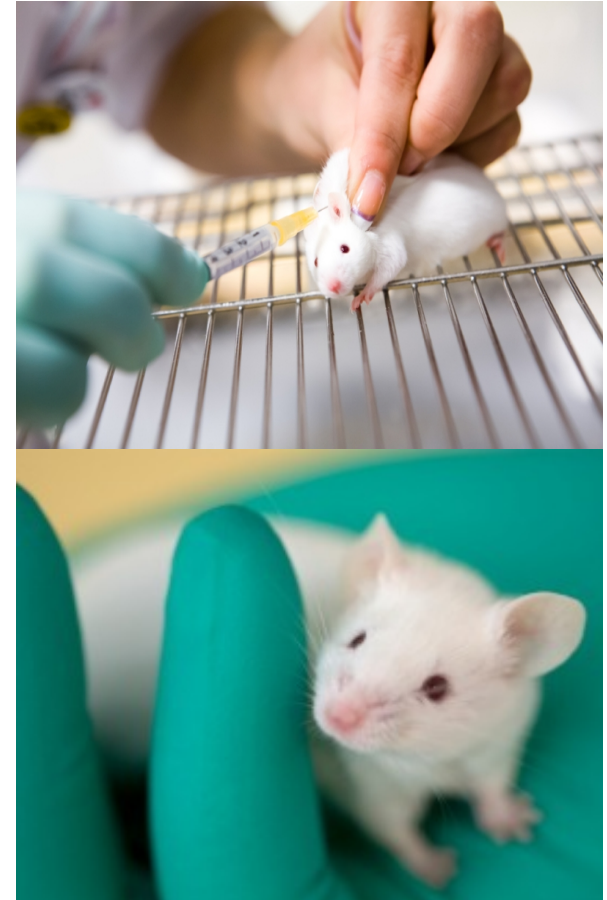
UK “Delivery Plan”: Goals and Problems

2010 UK “Coalition Agreement”: included promise to reduce animal use identified problems:

- “Exporting” tests to overseas countries where welfare standards may be lower;
- Need for as yet undiscovered technologies;
- Conservatism and a risk-averse approach to adopting change;
- **Conservatism on the part of journal editors and peer-review panels to accept publications based on non-animal techniques in lieu of the “traditional” animal models;**
- Global market can mean repeat testing using animal method.

Opportunity:

- Recognition of significant economic benefits associated with new technologies.





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Stepping back: the humanitarian tradition

Henry Salt (1892):

“We have to decide, not whether the practice of fox-hunting, for example, is more, or less, cruel than vivisection, but whether *all* practices which inflict unnecessary pain on sentient beings are not incompatible with the higher instincts of humanity.”

Leo Tolstoy:

“As long as there are slaughterhouses there will be battlefields.”



Conclusion

- Changing attitudes, new technologies;
- Changing relationships: environment; animals, each other;
- Political change reflecting public opinion – where next?



Thank you for your attention



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