



Anti Vivisection WA (Inc)

ABN 17 235 544 910

"Working to end experiments on animals!"

COSMETIC AND PRODUCT TESTING TOXIC AND TRAGIC

Everyday products that we buy without thinking cause untold misery, pain and death to millions of living creatures worldwide. Animals suffer and die in painful tests to determine the 'safety' of cosmetics, perfume, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, detergents, floor polish, oven cleaners, pesticides, household cleaning products and virtually every new product that comes on the market. The results of these tests do not help prevent or treat human illness or injury.

THE DRAIZE TEST

Since 1944, the Draize Eye Irritancy Test has been the standard test of substances that might get into the human eye. In this test a substance is dropped into the eyes of a group of albino rabbits. The animals are immobilised in stocks from which only their heads protrude. They usually receive no anaesthesia during the tests. Reactions to the substances include swollen eyelids, inflamed irises, ulceration, bleeding, massive deterioration and blindness. During the tests the rabbits' eyelids are held open with clips and their ineffective tear ducts prevent them from blinking or washing away the test substance. Technicians performing the Draize Test do not attempt to treat the rabbits or seek antidotes to the test substance, so the test does nothing to help prevent or treat potential human injuries.

ACUTE TOXICITY TESTS

Acute toxicity tests, commonly called lethal dose or poisoning tests, determine the amount of a substance that will kill part of a group of test animals. In these tests, a substance is forced by tube into the animals' stomachs or through holes cut into their throats. It may be injected under the skin, into a vein, or into the lining of the abdomen: mixed with food; inhaled through a gas mask; or applied into the eyes, rectum or vagina.



Reactions can include convulsions, laboured breathing, diarrhoea, constipation, emaciation, skin eruptions, abnormal posture and bleeding from the eyes, nose or mouth. The widely used Lethal Dose 50% (LD50) test was developed in 1927. The LD50 testing period continues until 50% of the animals die, usually in two to four weeks.

SKIN IRRITANCY TESTS

To test for skin irritancy, unanaesthetised animals have their backs shaved and the exposed skin broken. The product or substance is then applied to see what kind of reaction it produces. Results range from inflammation with raw, red flesh to severe injuries in which several layers of the skin are destroyed and the flesh eaten away.



The nonsense and the tragedy of tests like these is that they do not make products any safer. Animals are overdosed on toxic substances over a short, concentrated period of time, overwhelming their own protective mechanisms and making results unreliable. Animals also metabolise substances differently from humans and so any results are meaningless as far as human health and safety are concerned.

WHY DO COMPANIES TEST PRODUCTS ON ANIMALS?

Companies use animal tests as a public relations exercise to convince the public that their products are 'safe' and also to protect themselves from lawsuits should someone be harmed as a result of using one of their products. They just say: "We've done all the required tests". Companies sometimes go to extraordinary lengths. When one consumer complained that her family became ill after using oil containing a dead rodent, mice were drowned by being dropped into a bottle of Mazola cooking oil!

ALTERNATIVE NON-ANIMAL TEST METHODS

EYETEX - This test uses a special protein mixture that becomes cloudy if a product is causing irritation. It acts like the cornea of a rabbit's eye but produces more accurate results than animal tests. It is an alternative to the Draize Test and has already been used to test over 10,000 chemicals.

SKINTEX - This test uses human skin cells that have been grown on a special solution. These cells show how much damage is done by a product and the results tell us how human skin is affected. This test is an alternative to skin irritancy tests which use animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs.

MICRTOX - This test uses special bacteria that give off light as part of their normal respiration. The more poisonous a product, the less the bacteria respire and the less light they give off. This is an alternative to the LD50 test and other poisoning tests.

COMPUTERS - Computers can store information about the effects of different substances and predict the action of medicines and chemicals once inside the body.

By shopping with discrimination and by only using products in the Preferred Products List you can simultaneously help reduce animal suffering and put economic pressure on those companies that still test their products on living, sentient animals.

Distributed by:



Anti Vivisection WA (Inc)

Address: PO Box 1366, East Victoria Park, WA 6101

Telephone: (08) 9487 0947

Web: www.avwa.com.au Email: avwa@tnet.com.au