

Animal Testing Research and Cruelty Free Shopping Guide

Sophia Topulos

“Every year, millions of animals are poisoned and killed in barbaric tests that were crudely developed as long ago as the 1920s to evaluate the toxicity of consumer products and their ingredients.”¹ In the United States alone, 1.14 million animals (excluding rats, mice, bird, and cold-blooded species – animals which are excluded from animal rights laws, allowing testing facilities to use as many as they want and to perform whatever experiments they want, in any condition, with any [or no] medicine), plus an estimated 100 million mice, were experimented upon (the minority of these experiments were for medical or veterinary research).² Of those animals, 84,662 were subjected to pain and/or distress without pain relief.³ When submitting a proposal for an experiment, the experimenter can say that providing pain relief or anesthetic would interfere with the experiment, and, if so, the experimenter does not have to use it.⁴

I will not go into whether medical research on animals is necessary or justified – this is a whole other debate – but I will focus on animal experiments done in the name of cosmetics and other household items. Firstly, much of the research done on animals is unreliable and/or not applicable to humans.⁵ For example, penicillin is toxic to guinea pigs, but not to humans, and had we gone by its effect upon guinea pigs many of the illnesses that are now thought of as “nothing” because they can be treated so easily would instead be like the plague.⁶ Also, a drug called Opren – that had passed all the required animal tests – was fatal to people.⁷ Secondly, the benefits of animal testing are to come up with new types of make up or soap, etc. – things that we don’t need. We don’t really need makeup and other such items in the first place, but, even if we did, we already have makeup and cleaning solutions, etc. that work just fine. There is no need to come up with new products. We need to recognize that we are being selfish – at the expense of lives. To understand my position more thoroughly read the information below that brought me to the position I hold.

¹ People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. “Factsheets – Product Testing: Toxic & Tragic.” Viewed May 14, 2008.

<http://caringconsumer.com/factsheet_display.asp?ID=91>

² People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. “Factsheets – Animal Experiments: Overview.” Viewed May 14, 2008.

<http://caringconsumer.com/factsheet_display.asp?ID=126>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Singer, Peter. *Animal Liberation*. New York, New York: HarperCollins Publishers Inc., 2002, p. 55.

⁵ People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. “Factsheets – Product Testing: Toxic & Tragic.”

⁶ Singer, p. 57.

⁷ Singer, p. 57.

Main Types of Animal Testing

1. Acute Toxicity Tests (LD50)

Acute toxicity tests are administered to determine the consequences of short-term exposure to a product or chemical.⁸ Rodents are typically used to do this test. The testers either force-feed the animal the chemical, force the animal to inhale the chemical, or put the chemical on the animal's skin (so it is absorbed). The test is repeated using a variety of different concentrations of the chemical. Animals in the highest concentration group generally experience failure of many (if not all) organ systems, severe pain, and, eventually, death.⁹ Acute toxicity testing began around WW1 with the "lethal dose 50 percent" (LD50) test.¹⁰ The LD50 test is like the testing I described above, but the experimenters would continue to increase the concentration of the chemical until 50% of the animals died. When doing the test with a fairly harmless substance, the animals have to be force-fed enormous amounts of the substance, so their death may be caused simply by the large volume of substance fed to them.¹¹ The pain and suffering the animals endure, however, is of no significance because it is not relevant to the circumstances in which people will use the product.¹² Furthermore, animals that are suffering, distressed, and dying, cannot be treated or put out of their misery because this would nullify the results of the experiment. The animals in these tests cannot have any medical care whatsoever, as this would affect the results, so several million animals go through painful and distressing tests and are left to die in order to create something like a new eye shadow color.¹³ I do not think that there is anything that could justify such tests. For more examples, refer to Singer's Animal Liberation.

2. Eye and Skin Irritation/ Corrosion Tests (Draize test)

The Draize test, first used in the 1940s, is to establish the consequences of having a substance in one's eye.¹⁴ The test is performed on rabbits that are typically in a device that immobilizes them. The experimenter puts a substance ("such as bleach,

⁸ People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. "Factsheets – Product Testing: Toxic & Tragic."

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Singer, p.54.

¹² Ibid. p. 54.

¹³ Ibid. p.54.

¹⁴ Ibid. p.54.

shampoo, or ink”) onto the surface of one of the rabbit’s eyes and then the eye is held closed.¹⁵ The rabbit’s eye generally becomes infected, lose distinctive characteristics, and cease working – meanwhile the rabbit is undergoing sever pain.¹⁶ Furthermore, the experimenter is not required to use any sort of anesthetic or pain reliever.¹⁷ Most importantly, the results of what happens to a rabbit are not good at indicating what happens in humans. Firstly, the Draize test is highly subjective (as the amount of eye and/or skin damage is qualitative), so different laboratories frequently get different results.¹⁸ Secondly, “rabbits’ eyes are anatomically and physiologically different from and tend to have stronger reactions to chemicals than humans’ eyes.”¹⁹

In skin testing, the rabbits are shaved (so the substance can be applied to the skin) and the substance is applied. Similarly to the Draize eye test, the rabbits are restrained so they cannot move as their skin burns, peels, blisters, or bleeds.²⁰ Torturing an animal to get an improved version, or simply a different version, of something we already have is unjustifiable. For more examples and more detail, refer to Singer’s Animal Liberation.

FAQ

1. How does a dog food company harm animals?

Both PETA and the USDA have found that IAMS conducts cruel animal testing. The USDA claims that IAMS has failed to do many things: to provide pain relief to sheep used in experiments that caused pain or distress, to ensure that personnel were trained to perform experiments on animals, to provide veterinary care and to observe animals daily, to properly ventilate housing facilities for dogs and cats, to house cats with a sufficient number of litterboxes and resting surfaces, to keep animal-housing facilities clean and in good repair (resulting in injuries), to maintain comfortable temperatures in animal-housing facilities, to provide animals with sufficient space.²¹ Ironically, IAMS conducts many cruel

¹⁵ Ibid. p.54.

¹⁶ Ibid. p.54-55.

¹⁷ Ibid. p.55.

¹⁸ People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. “Factsheets – Product Testing: Toxic & Tragic.”

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. “IAMS Undercover Investigation Update.” Viewed June 1, 2008.

experiments in abysmal conditions in order to make better pet food. Experimenters force feed animals, starve animals, sever animals' vocal chords, chop out leg muscles, cut open various body cavities (or bones) to see the effect of a change in diet, provide no veterinary care, and leave the animals to die.²²²³ For more information, visit <<http://iamskills.com/index.shtml>> or <<http://www.iamscruelty.com/index.asp>>.

2. If a company does not test on animals, but the company that owns it does, should you boycott the company?

This is a tricky question. In my opinion, yes. Let's take The Body Shop, for example. The Body Shop (which does not test on animals) is owned by L'Oréal (which does test on animals). I believe that by supporting The Body Shop and by not supporting other companies owned by L'Oréal that do test on animals one demonstrates to L'Oréal that consumers will only buy products that were not generated by animal testing. While the people of L'Oréal may not change their personal standings on animal testing, L'Oréal is a business and so the people will do what will benefit the business the most. If we, the consumers, refuse to buy products tested on animals and continue to buy those not tested on animals, the people of L'Oréal will eventually stop testing on animals – so as to make more money. Note that companies (in the guide book below) with an asterisk (*) are companies like The Body Shop (ones that don't test on animals but are owned by companies that do).

Phrases to be Wary of

1. "This product not tested on animals." – The ingredients or components of the final product may have been tested on animals, even if the final product was not.
2. "This company does not do animal testing." – Their parent company or a company they work with may be doing the testing for them.
3. "Animal friendly." and "Cruelty Free." – These statements are vague and open to interpretation.
4. "This company does not do any animal testing that is not required by the law." – There are no laws that require cosmetics and household products

< <http://www.iamscruelty.com/index.asp>>

²² People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. "Frequently Asked Questions: What's Wrong with IAMS? ." Viewed June 1, 2008.

< <http://www.iamscruelty.com/FAQ.asp>>

²³ In Defense of Animals. "Best Friends Betrayed." (2004) Viewed June 1, 2008.

< http://iamskills.com/the_horrors.shtml>

to be tested on animals. The exception to this is that the law does require animal testing of “lawn fertilizers, weed killers, and household cleaners that make ‘germ killing’ or ‘antibacterial’ claims on their labels.”²⁴

If you see statements like these, be careful. The company may in fact not do animal testing (and not have testing done for them), but these statements leave potential loopholes, so the company may be conducting some form of animal testing (or have testing done for them). Before you buy a product with one of these disclaimers, make sure to do a little research to ensure that you are buying a product that is not a result of animal testing.

Further Reading

1. <http://iamskills.com/index.shtml>
2. <http://www.peta.org>
3. Singer, Peter. Animal Liberation. New York, New York: HarperCollins Publishers Inc., 2002.

²⁴ People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. “Factsheets – Product Testing: Toxic & Tragic.”

Category	Companies That Test	Companies That Don't
Body Care		
	Aveeno	Almay
	Axe	Aquaphor
	Bengay	Aveda
	Caress	Avon (includes Anew, Skin So Soft, and mark.)
	Curél	Bath & Body Works
	Desitin	*The Body Shop
	Dial	Burt's Bees
	Dove	California Baby
	Gillette	Clarins
	Irish Spring	Clinique
	Jergens	Crabtree & Evelyn
	Johnson & Johnson (Johnson's)	Desert Essence
	La Roche Posay	e.l.f. cosmetics
	Lancôme	Elizabeth Grady
	Lever 2000	Estée Lauder
	L'Oréal	Eucerin
	Lubriderm	*Kiehl's
	Neutrogena	L'Occitane
	Olay	Lumene
	Old Spice	Mary Kay
	Sally Hansen	Murad
	Softsoap	Nivea
	Suave	Origins
	Tone	Victoria's Secret
	Vaseline	
	Vichy	
	Zest	
Bug Repellant		
	OFF!	Avon (includes Anew, Skin So Soft, and mark.)
		Burt's Bees
		California Baby
Deodorant		
	Arrid	Almay
	Axe	Avon (includes Anew,

		Skin So Soft, and mark.)
	Ban	Burt's Bees
	Degree	Clarins
	Dove	Clinique
	Dry Idea	Crabtree & Evelyn
	Gillette	Desert Essence
	Lady's Choice	Estée Lauder
	Old Spice	*Kiehl's
	Right Guard	L'Occitane
	Secret	Mitchum
	Soft & Dri	Naturally Fresh
	Softsoap	Nivea
	Speed Stick	Origins
	Suave	*Tom's of Maine
	Sure	
Depilatories		
	Nair	Avon (includes Anew, Skin So Soft, and mark.)
	Sally Hansen	
	Veet	
Dish Washing Soap/ Dish Washer Soap		
	Ajax	Seventh Generation
	Cascade	
	Dawn	
	Ivory	
	Palmolive	
Dog & Cat Food etc.		
	Fresh Step	Active Life Pet Products
	Hills Pet Nutrition	Amoré Pet Services, Inc.
	Iams	Animal Food Services
		Artemis Pet Food
		Azmira Holistic Animal Care
		Boston Baked Bonz
		Bravo Raw Diet
		Burns Pet Nutrition
		Canusa International
		CountryPet Pet Food
		Dr. Harvey's
		Dry Fork Milling Co.
		Dynamite Marketing, Inc.
		Evanger's Dog and Cat Food Co., Inc.
		Evolution Diet, Inc.

	Flint River Ranch
	Good Dog Foods, Inc.
	GreenTripe.com
	Halo, Purely for Pets
	Happy Dog Food
	Harbingers of a New Age
	Holistic Blend
	The Honest Kitchen
	Know Better Dog Food
	KosherPets, Inc.
	Kumpi Pet Foods
	Natural Balance Pet Foods, Inc.
	Natural Life Pet Products, Inc.
	Nature's Variety
	Newman's Own Organics
	Oma's Pride
	Onesta Organics
	PetGuard
	Pied Piper Pet & Wildlife
	PoshNosh Inc.
	Raw Advantage, Inc.
	Sauder Feeds, Inc.
	Timberwolf Organics, Inc.
	V-dogfood, LLC
	Veterinary Nutritional Forumula
	Wow-Bow Distributors Ltd.
	Wysong Professional Diets
Face Care	
	Aveeno
	Almay
	Bioré
	Aveda
	Clean & Clear
	Avon (includes Anew, Skin So Soft, and mark.)
	Dove
	Bath & Body Works
	Garnier
	Bobbi Brown
	La Roche Posay
	*The Body Shop
	Lancôme
	Burt's Bees
	L'Oréal
	Clarins
	Neutrogena
	Clinique
	Noxzema (Noxell)
	Crabtree & Evelyn
	Olay
	Desert Essence

	Pond's	Dr. Brandt
	RoC	Elizabeth Grady
	Sally Hansen	Estée Lauder
	Vichy	*Kiehl's
		L'Occitane
		Lumene
		M·A·C Cosmetics
		Mary Kay
		Murad
		Nivea
		Origins
		*Shu Uemura
		Victoria's Secret
Feminine Care		
	Always	Seventh Generation
	Answer	
	Carefree	
	E.P.T.	
	First Response	
	K-Y	
	Kotex	
	Monistat	
	Naturalamb	
	O.B.	
	Playtex	
	Stayfree	
	Tampax	
	Trojan	
Hair Stuff		
	Aussie	Aveda
	Clairol	Avon (includes Anew, Skin So Soft, and mark.)
	Daily Defense	Bath & Body Works
	Dove	Bed Head
	Garnier	*The Body Shop
	Head & Shoulders	Bumble and Bumble
	Infusium 23	Burt's Bees
	L'Oréal	California Baby
	Matrix Essentials	Conair
	Neutrogena	Crabtree & Evelyn
	Nice 'n Easy	Desert Essence
	Pantene	göt2b
	Pert Plus	*Herbal Essences
	Redken	*Kiehl's
	Rogaine	L'Occitane

	Salon Selectives	Murad
	Soft Sheen	Nexxus
	Suave	Nivea
	Sunsilk	Origins
	Thermasilk	Revlon
	Vidal Sassoon	*Shu Uemura
		Victoria's Secret
Household Cleaners (carpet stain remover, sponges, tile cleaner, etc.)		
	Ajax	Seventh Generation
	Arm & Hammer	
	Brillo	
	Clorox	
	Fantastik	
	Febreze	
	Formula 409	
	Lysol	
	Mr. Clean	
	Murphy Oil Soap	
	Orange Glo	
	Oust	
	Oxiclean	
	Pine-Sol	
	Pledge	
	Resolve	
	Scrubbing Bubbles	
	Scrub Free	
	Soft Scrub	
	S.O.S.	
	Swiffer	
	Tilex	
	Windex	
Laundry Detergent		
	Bounce	Seventh Generation
	Cheer	
	Clorox	
	Downy	
	Suavitel	
	Oxiclean	
	Purex	
	Shout	
	Tide	
	Woolite	
	Zout	

Makeup		
	Covergirl	Almay
	Dermablend	Aveda
	Lancôme	Avon (includes Anew, Skin So Soft, and mark.)
	L'Oréal	Bare Escentuals
	Max Factor	Bath & Body Works
	Maybelline	Bobbi Brown
	Neutrogena	*The Body Shop
	New York Color (N.Y.C.)	Bonne Bell
	Rimmel	Burt's Bees
	Sally Hansen	Clarins
	Vichy	Clinique
		e.l.f. cosmetics
		Elizabeth Grady
		Estée Lauder
		Flirt! Cosmetics
		Lumene
		M·A·C Cosmetics
		Mary Kay
		Nivea
		Origins
		Physicians Formula
		Revlon
		Shu Uemura
		Smashbox
		Stila
		Tarte
		Too Faced
		Urban Decay
		Victoria's Secret
		Victoria's Secret
		Wet n Wild
Miscellaneous		
	Acuvue	
	Band Aid	
	Bic (pens, stationary, etc.)	
	Caladryl	
	Drano	
	Dr. Scholl's	
	Duracell	
	Glad	
	Glade	
	Huggies	
	Luvs	

	Mars Candy	
	Nalgene	
	Neosporin	
	Post-It	
	Purell	
	Saran Wrap	
	Scotch	
	Splenda	
	Wet Ones	
	Visine	
	Ziploc	
Nail Polish		
	Covergirl	Avon (includes Anew, Skin So Soft, and mark.)
	Lancôme	Bath & Body Works
	L'Oréal	Bobbi Brown
	Maybelline	*The Body Shop
	Sally Hansen	Clarins
		e.l.f. cosmetics
		Estée Lauder
		Lumene
		M·A·C Cosmetics
		Nivea
		Revlon
		Wet n Wild
Perfume/Cologne/Fragrance		
	Axe	Abercrombie & Fitch
	Lancôme	Aveda
	Old Spice	Avon (includes Anew, Skin So Soft, and mark.)
	Ralph Lauren Fragrances	Bath & Body Works
		Bobbi Brown
		*The Body Shop
		Burt's Bees
		Clarins
		Clinique
		Crabtree & Evelyn
		Estée Lauder
		Flirt! Cosmetics
		*Kiehl's
		L'Occitane
		M·A·C Cosmetics
		Mary Kay
		Origins
		Revlon

		Stila
		Victoria's Secret
Shaving Stuff		
	Braun	Aveda
	Edge	Avon (includes Anew, Skin So Soft, and mark.)
	Gillette	Bath & Body Works
	Intuition (Schick)	Conair
	Neutrogena	Estée Lauder
	Olay	*Kiehl's
	Old Spice	*Tom's of Maine
	Quattro (Schick)	
	Satin Care (Gillette)	
	Skintimate	
	Venus (Gillette)	
Sun Protection		
	Aveeno	Almay
	Bain de Soleil	Aveda
	Banana Boat	Avon (includes Anew, Skin So Soft, and mark.)
	Clean & Clear	Bath & Body Works
	Coppertone	Bobbi Brown
	Hawaiian Tropic	*The Body Shop
	Lancôme	Burt's Bees
	Neutrogena	California Baby
	Sally Hansen	California Tan
	Vichy	Clarins
		Clinique
		Desert Essence
		Dr. Brandt
		Estée Lauder
		*Kiehl's
		L'Occitane
		Lumene
		Murad
		Nivea
		Origins
Tissue/ Toilet Paper/ Paper Towels, etc.		
	Bounty	Seventh Generation
	Charmin	
	Cottonelle	
	Kleenex	
	Puffs	
	Scott Tissue	

Toothpaste, etc.		
	Aquafresh	Bath & Body Works
	Aim	Desert Essence
	Arm & Hammer	*Tom's of Maine
	Colgate	
	Crest	
	Efferdent	
	Listerine	
	Mentadent	
	Oral-B	
	Pearl Drops	
	Reach	
	Rembrandt	

Legend:

* Owned by a company that does animal testing.