



MEDIA RELEASE

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International expert condemns Australia's use of animals in medical and scientific research

Humane Research Australia, together with Anti-Vivisection Union of South Australia, is proudly sponsoring an Australian lecture tour for Dr Andrew Knight in late February 2013. Dr Knight will be presenting at universities and other venues around Australia to speak on the themes of his recent critically-acclaimed book, ***"The Costs and Benefits of Animal Experiments"*** (Palgrave Macmillan) in which he condemns the use of animals in medical and scientific research.

Dr Knight is a European Veterinary Specialist in Welfare Science, Ethics and Law, and a Fellow of the **Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics**. His book has received critical acclaim by scientists and philosophers alike, and is highly recommended for anyone involved or interested in the use of animals in research. Dr Knight presents more than a decade of ground-breaking scientific research, analysis and experience to provide evidence-based answers to many key questions such as:

- How useful are animal experiments in advancing human healthcare?
- How much do animals suffer as a result?
- Do students really need to dissect or experiment on animals?
- Is animal experimentation ethically justified?
- Where then, does the truth lie?

Australia is the fourth-largest user of animals in laboratories globally, with statistics revealing on average 7 million animals being used annually. Some scientists claim they are essential for combating major human diseases, or detecting human toxins. Others claim the contrary, with evidence of many thousands of patients harmed by pharmaceuticals developed using animal tests. Some claim all experiments are conducted humanely, to high scientific standards, yet a wealth of studies has recently revealed that laboratory animals suffer significant stress, which may distort experimental results.

Humane Research Australia CEO Helen Marston said today: *"I cannot speak highly enough of this book and its importance to the research community. I believe it can certainly change the landscape of medical research in Australia."*

Dr Knight will speak in Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Hobart.

Further information, including dates and venues may be found at:

<http://www.humanereseach.org.au/interview/andrew-knight-speaking-tour-the-costs-and-benefits-of-animal-experiments>

To arrange an interview with Dr Andrew Knight please call +447824376709 or alternatively contact Helen Marston, 03 8823 5704 or 0407 802 794
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