



humane research australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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11 cats killed unnecessarily in cruel experiment at an Australian university

Humane Research Australia has uncovered yet another example of the unethical and unnecessary use of cats for human vision experiments.

In this particular experiment carried out at the **University of Sydney**, eleven adult cats underwent highly invasive surgical procedures that included the removal of part of the skull as well as bilateral cervical sympathectomy (intentionally cutting the nerve supply to parts of the head and eyes). During the experiments **the cats' heads were restrained in a stereotaxic device** and the animals received muscle relaxants in addition to a general anesthetic. At the end of the experiment each cat was killed and the brain removed and studied. **The researchers in their study make no mention of any relevance this research may have to humans.** The study does not provide any evidence to show that the information obtained from the killing of these 11 cats will lead to cures for people (or even animals, for that matter)

Chief Executive Officer, Helen Marston, said today *“Animal experiments of this kind have continued unabated for decades. This type of research perfectly exemplifies the huge amount of unnecessary and inhumane research currently being carried-out at this, and other Australian research facilities.”*

The experiment was funded by a substantial grant by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC) - both taxpayer funded federal organisations.

In the years 2010-2011 statistics reveal 2308 cats were used for experimentation purposes in NSW and VIC alone.

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