



MEDIA RELEASE

22nd April 2016

**WORLD WEEK FOR ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES
23rd-30th APRIL 2016**

World Week for Animals in Laboratories is an annual event that aims to highlight the plight of millions of animals worldwide who continue to suffer unethical, inhumane and unnecessary experimentation in research laboratories.

Recent statistics indicate on average over 7 million animals are used annually for experimentation purposes in Australian research laboratories alone. Australia is in fact the fourth highest user of animals in the world, behind only China, Japan and the United States.

HRA believes Australia, in the 21st century, has the opportunity to be leading the world towards a cruelty-free future that relies on ethical, effective, species-specific scientific research that truly benefits humans and animals alike, rather than persisting with the current archaic system of flawed scientific research protocols that routinely sanction unnecessary cruelty to animals, and are also dangerously misleading for human health.

HRA Chief Executive Helen Marston: *"It's time to open the laboratory doors; for far too long the scientists and research facilities in this country have been operating unchallenged within a largely self-regulated system. Everyday Australians have a right to know what is occurring within our medical and scientific research facilities as much of the research being conducted is taxpayer funded.*

The Australian public deserves better, tax payers are currently funding antiquated and unnecessary research on animals that has proven to be unreliable when extrapolated to human health. They should demand the government stop wasting their tax dollars on cruel, ineffective and unnecessary animal experiments, and instead direct funding to ethical, scientifically valid non-animal based research. Such research will ultimately provide far greater health benefits for humans, and in turn prevent the suffering of millions of animals each year." Ms Marston concluded.

During the week of 23-30 April, HRA is encouraging supporters to take on the [Chalk Challenge](#) to help raise awareness of lab animals.

[Meet the Statistics](#) video also available on YouTube