



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**23rd April 2017**

## **WORLD DAY FOR LABORATORY ANIMALS 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**World Day for Laboratory Animals 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 that over [10 million animals](#) were used for experimentation purposes in 2015. Australia is in fact the fourth highest user of animals in the world, behind only China, Japan and the United States.

**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.*

*Nine out of ten drugs deemed “successful” in animal tests fail in human clinical trials. Let’s stop wasting our tax dollars on cruel, ineffective and unnecessary animal experiments, and instead direct funding to ethical, scientifically valid research that is more likely to result in genuine medical progress.”*Ms Marston concluded.

Humane Research Australia focuses on opposing animal experiments on both ethical and scientific grounds. Our work involves:

- [Collating national statistics of animal usage in research](#)
- [Exposing case studies of recent research involving animals in Australia](#)
- [Calling for transparency of animal experiments](#)
- [Promoting alternatives to animal use](#)
- Raising awareness of the use of all animals in research but focusing on [greyhounds](#) and [primates](#)
- [Promoting health and medical charities which do NOT fund animal experiments](#)
- [Encouraging the rehoming of ex-lab animals following the duration of their “use” in experiments.](#)
- Lobbying for the provision of funding incentives for researchers to develop alternatives (ie human-relevant methodologies) to animal experiments.

Ends