

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**31<sup>st</sup> August 2018**

## **International Primate Day – time to expose the atrocities inflicted on our closest relatives**

1<sup>st</sup> September is International Primate Day - a day dedicated to preserving and protecting primates of all species.

Animal Defenders International (ADI) founded Primate Day in 2005 with a specific focus on putting an end to experimenting on monkeys for disease research.

2018 has seen an increase in international media exposing the use of primates in cruel experiments, however it would be remiss to believe that these atrocities are not happening right here in Australia. They are!

[Chinese researchers have cloned macaque monkeys.](#)

[German carmaker Volkswagen's testing of diesel fumes on a macaque.](#)

U.S. Food and Drug Administration decided to [shut down a nicotine addiction study](#) following the deaths of four squirrel monkeys involved in the research.

The three issues above have certainly exposed the secretive industry of primate experiments on a global scale - finally - but it would be wrong to think that it only happens overseas. It happens here too!

- According to the latest available statistics, 305 primates were used in experiments in 2016. They include marmosets, macaques and baboons, all of which are bred in Australia specifically for research purposes (and taxpayer funded)
- For decades, University of Sydney have been using [marmosets in brain and vision experiments](#), as has [Monash University](#). This research involves the animals being placed in a stereotaxic frame, undergoing a craniotomy and having electrodes inserted into their brains while still alive.
- Baboons have been used by the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and University of Sydney to [test radioactive substances](#).
- The University of Melbourne has [infected macaques with SIV](#) (Simian immunodeficiency virus) and then removed their testis for analysis – again while still alive.

**Humane Research Australia CEO, Helen Marston:** *“It does of course read like a horror movie, but this is still happening – right here, right now – yet few people are aware that it happens, let alone much of it is paid for by us through our tax dollars.”*

*“No animal should be subjected to cruel and invasive experimental procedures, however primates seem to attract a higher level of sympathy and outrage due to their similarity to us, their high cognitive abilities and well-developed social structures. Being so close to humans,*

*people seem to identify more with their suffering and the injustice of using them as mere "tools for research".*

*"I remain hopeful that the current international spotlight on these damning experiments will continue and this poor excuse for "research" will continue to be exposed, condemned and finally replaced with more humane and scientifically valid methods that will not only spare these intelligent and sentient individuals from suffering, but will also result in data that will advance medical progress expeditiously rather than hinder it." Marston concluded.*

For more information about the use of primates in research, please visit [BanPrimateExperiments.org.au](http://BanPrimateExperiments.org.au).

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