



Patron: Professor John Coetzee

AIMS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANE RESEARCH INC.

- To promote all viable methods of healing which do not at any stage involve the use of animals.
- To promote the use of scientific alternatives in all forms of medical, scientific and commercial research.
- To help disseminate evidence, as it becomes available, that the use of alternatives is less costly, more accurate and more humane than the use of animals in experiments.
- To work for the abolition of all experiments using animals.

Welcome

Hello and welcome to our new-look newsletter. I hope that you'll find it reader-friendly, but that it still contains vital and credible information for which past newsletters have become renowned.

Now that AAHR is established in Melbourne we are starting to get out and about. In July I spoke at Monash University's Students of Sustainability conference, and will shortly address BOAR (Ballarat Organisation for Animal Rights). We are also about to participate in the Cruelty Free Expo, and World Vegan Day picnic. It's so great to have the opportunity to speak to people directly about the danger and the injustice of animal research. It also provides the opportunity to address people's concerns and also to gauge their reactions and interest in the issue.

In this newsletter we launch our new campaign to stop the importation of primates for research, we introduce our terrific new merchandise, which I hope you'll all be keen to purchase, we report on our recent AGM and provide news from Australia and from overseas.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership and for the wonderful feedback we have received about our brochures and website. It's been so encouraging. We thank you for your support!

Helen Rosser

RENEWALS

Some members are yet to renew their membership for 2006, so if you have a red stamp in this box then your membership is now overdue and we have included a renewal slip for you. Every membership is essential to allow us to continue our important work to end animal experiments, so please....

RENEW NOW!!



We urge all our Victorian members to come along and see the Cruelty Free Lifestyle Expo.

All-Vegan Expo. Food, cosmetics, household products, toiletries, organic products, live music, workshops, cooking demos, literature, massage, devonshire tea, wine, beer and a delicious lunch. Plenty of street parking on Chapel Street or behind Coles off Cecil and Anchor Streets). There are great raffle prizes and plenty of activities for kids. Entry is \$10 for adults, including a value packed show bag (while stocks last) and free entry for children.

Sunday October 23 10am-5pm
Prahran Town Hall (Cr Greville/Chapel Sts
Melways: Map 2L H11)

'Avant Card' thank you

During August and September, members may have noticed AAHR postcards appear on stands in their local cafes, restaurants, cinemas and galleries. A total of 90,000 cards have been distributed throughout Australia, spreading the message that "Animal experiments hurt people too! There IS a better way..."

We'd like to express our sincere thanks to Avant Card for their assistance in getting this important message across to the public.

Ban the importation of primates for research

Australia is already home to three primate breeding facilities: the National Marmoset Facility at Churchill, Victoria; the National Macaque Facility in Werribee, Victoria (soon to amalgamate with the Churchill facility); and the National Baboon Facility in Sydney, all of which breed animals specifically for the purpose of being used in research.

Despite this “ready supply” however, during the past five years, five permits have been granted to import primates into Australia for research.¹ This includes 127 pig-tailed macaques imported from Indonesia and provided to the CSIRO (Geelong campus) for research into AIDS.²

The NHMRC’s *Policy on the care and use of non-human primates for scientific purposes* states “Non-human primates imported from overseas must not be taken from wild populations and must be accompanied by documentation to certify their status.”³ AAHR questions how strictly this is regulated.

The UK is reputed to have one of the world’s highest standards in animal welfare, and in 1995 the UK Government announced a ban on the use of wild-caught primates in research unless there was “exceptional and specific justification”. Since the ban, however, various loopholes in the legislation have meant that some wild-caught primates have been used in the UK. The British Union Against Vivisection (BUAV), and ‘Gateway to Hell’ have undertaken investigations into the international trade.



Photo courtesy: BUAV

As reported by BUAV, “The international trade in wild-caught and captive-bred primates for the research industry is big business. Every year, thousands of primates from around the world continue to be taken from the wild or bred in appalling captive conditions, to satisfy

the research industry’s demand for laboratory subjects. They are taken from countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Mauritius, Barbados, Guyana, Tanzania, China, Israel and Vietnam and then transported by airlines to laboratories around the world.

The chain of supply starts with the capture of primates in primitive traps before they are taken to ‘holding’ compounds, where they are often held in cramped boxes or crates too small for them to stand up in.”⁴



Nevertheless, even if the animals imported are purpose-bred for research, they must endure long air journeys.

According to Gateway to Hell, “Undercover exposés show that the animals suffer horribly whilst in transit. They are often deprived of the basic necessities of food, water and space. There is no care or sensitivity for the animals already terrified by their experiences. Many do not make it through alive.”⁵

Australian researchers should be looking toward non-animal methodologies that are far more relevant to studying human disease than replicating it in species that are genetically different to our own, yet instead of eliminating the use of primates, they are utilizing those already bred within our three established colonies, and still importing more!

What can you do?

Write to the following ministers and ask that the Australian Government impose an immediate ban on the importation of primates for research:

The Hon. Tony Abbott, MP
Minister for Health & Ageing
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Email: Tony.Abbott.MP@aph.gov.au

The Hon. Peter McGauran, MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Email: Peter.McGauran.MP@aph.gov.au

The Hon. Mark Vaile, MP
Minister for Trade
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Email: mark.vaile.mp@aph.gov.au

Air France has been identified by Gateway to Hell as transporting animals for research. Please write and ask them to stop transporting animals to their death.

Air France
Level 3, 55 Murray Street
Pyrmont, NSW 2009

For more information about the international trade in primates, visit the Gateway to Hell website (www.gatewaytohell.net) and BUAV's campaign on the international trade in primates (www.buav.org/campaigns/primates/trade).

(Footnotes)

¹ Personal correspondence, AQIS, 2nd August 2005

² Primates for Primates newsletter, Volume 11, No.2, August 2005

³ Policy on the Use of Non-Human Primates for Scientific Purposes, NHMRC, page 5, item 7.

⁴www.buav.org/campaigns/primates/trade

⁵www.gatewaytohell.net/gateways/gateways_index

Focus on...

Animal Ethics Committees (AECs)

The presence of animal ethics committees, and in particular inclusion of a category C member (animal welfare representative) is often used by researchers to promote a 'clean' image of the research industry to the public - as an assurance that the care and use of animals is sanctioned by those with a concern for their welfare and/or rights. However many category C persons serving on an ethics committee are opposed to the use of animals in research. Their presence is to ensure that the animals are protected as much as possible but only within the scope of the Code of Practice.

Cherie Wilson kindly shares her experience with us.

Are you in favour of, or opposed to, the use of animals in research?

I am opposed to the use of animals in research. I do not think experiments on other species conducted in artificial laboratory environments are valuable to medical advancement. Instead we should be looking at human case studies and shifting the focus from curing symptoms of disease to investigating the causes of disease within our society. Many of the experiments that pass through my ethics committee deal with problems which we all know are caused by inadequate diet and stress.

Would you say that AEC's actually protect animals or instead that they are merely a measure to assist the justification of their use?

A properly operating AEC offers some form of protection for individual animals used in experiments. Animal welfare representatives and veterinarians on the committee are able to request pain relief for individual animals undergoing painful



procedures (although not in all cases). Scientists on the committee sometimes question the experimental methods or numbers of animals used to ensure 'valid' results. Animal technicians, if included on the committee, can give valuable feedback on problems encountered during experiments*. Ethics Committees, however, do not tend to question the 'ethics' underlying experiments, they simply refine experiments. In this way they can be seen to justify experimentation.

Do you feel that as an animal welfare representative you have been able to alleviate any suffering?

I have been able to help alleviate suffering of individual animals by insisting on the use of pain killers and the regular monitoring of animals involved in experiments.

Have you ever challenged a protocol (procedure) or even stopped it from going ahead?

I and the other animal welfare representative on my committee have occasionally challenged experiments. Once or twice experiments have been withdrawn. This only occurred when we, the veterinarians and scientists all expressed lack of confidence in particular procedures. I and the other animal welfare representative have never succeeded alone in stopping an experiment. Recently, for example, we challenged on ethical grounds, the provision by our institution of transgenic pigs for research into organ transplantation. We did this on the grounds that the NH&MRC has placed a five-year moratorium on animal to human organ transplantation. The remainder of the committee opposed us and the experiments went ahead.

Do you feel that your input is given sufficient consideration, or are you simply a minority who carries little weight on the committee?

My input on the committee is given consideration however, as I have agreed to operate within an ethics committee, I am restricted in the opinions I can express. I cannot say that I disapprove of almost all the experiments.

If I did this I would not be able to work within the committee and would have to leave (so would not be able to help any of the animals trapped in the laboratories).

Do you feel sufficiently knowledgeable to fully understand the protocols presented to you?

I certainly don't understand all the protocols. The scientists who develop the experiments are often specialists and have advanced knowledge in specific fields. Sometimes all members of the committee, even the scientists, admit that they don't fully grasp what the experiment is about. I tend to concentrate on specific areas such as animal housing, monitoring and pain relief. If I don't understand an aspect of an experiment I ask other committee members, in particular the veterinarians and animal technicians. I am certain that my lack of knowledge prevents me fully comprehending what the animals involved in experiments are going through.

* The membership of an animal technician to an ethics committee is not a mandatory requirement under the Code of Practice.

If you have served on an ethics committee and would like to share your experience with us, please contact us as we would love to hear your views.

Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting

On behalf of the AAHR Management Committee I would like to advise that at the Annual General Meeting was held 11 August 2005. The Management Committee which had been operating since March 2005 was re-elected for the term of the next 12 months. As we were only an interim committee at the time of the AGM, I, as the acting president, thought it appropriate, with the full support of the committee, that Helen Rosser, CEO of AAHR, and who has set the guidelines for us, give to the AGM the report covering the last six months. On behalf of the committee we look forward to working together as a team to achieve the aims as set out in Helen's report that follows.

Steph Geddes
President

CEO's Report AGM 2005.

Prior to its relocation from Sydney to Melbourne in March this year, much of the work of AAHR focused on xenotransplantation. This was due to the public consultation conducted by the NHMRC. As well as lodging submissions to both the first and second round of consultations, AAHR distributed 80,000 "Say no to xeno" brochures which were

inserted into *The Canberra Times*. The outcome of the consultation was the announcement in December 2004 of a five year ban on clinical trials of xenotransplantation research.

AAHR was also involved in the formation of APAAX (Australia Pacific Alliance Against Xenotransplantation) which consists of medical professionals, ethicists and animal welfare groups opposed to xenotransplantation. This newly formed coalition will monitor the progress of xenotransplantation research and take action where necessary.

AAHR also participated in the "Insight" program which was dedicated to the topic of animal exploitation, including experimentation. Unfortunately those in favour of animal research were given more air-time and those opposed to animal use were not portrayed in a positive light.

In September 2004, founding president Elizabeth Ahlston announced to the Management Committee that following the resignation of two of the office staff, she had decided to resign herself as president after 28 years in the position. Prior to the announcement, Elizabeth had invited me to Sydney to meet with her and the financial advisor, Barrie Cooper, to discuss relocating the organisation to Melbourne and offered me the position of Chief Executive Officer. While at first the proposal seemed a little daunting, after some consideration it did not take much persuasion for me to accept the offer, as I realised it was a unique opportunity for

me to dedicate myself full time to working on my biggest passion – opposing animal experiments. In the following months I visited Sydney on a number of occasions to learn about AAHR and to meet the outgoing committee. I also introduced Kier Bult as proposed office administrator and he was subsequently offered the position to work with me in Melbourne.

I also attended the MAWA meeting in Sydney during December. I was present while two applicants were interviewed for the scholarship. Unfortunately while one applicant did not qualify as her work did include some use of animal product, the successful applicant later declined the prize as her project was likely to have taken longer than the stipulated timeframe. Consequently there were no MAWA scholarships awarded for 2004.

In March this year AAHR officially moved to Melbourne and took up accommodation at the Toorak Corporate Centre in Malvern. We also had our inaugural management committee meeting. We are grateful to Carlie Martin who agreed to work with us in Melbourne for the first month to “teach us the ropes” and help us settle into our new positions.

The move did create a lot of upheaval - securing premises, staff training, advising changes to insurers, finding a new auditor - not to mention the huge amount of unpacking and organisation of the new office. But, we survived the move and are now looking onward and upward.

One of our first priorities was to promote AAHR, and to work out our future direction. We began by drafting a strategic plan and working out a proposed budget and I'm pleased to say we are well on course with our planned activities.

The first stage of promoting AAHR was to update our image with the creation of our new “softer” brochure. The softer approach was to ensure that sympathetic readers would read about our concerns rather than dismiss us as militant activists or providers of information that was too difficult or emotional to contemplate. Feedback has confirmed that our approach has been the right one with many compliments received along with membership renewals. This new image has been continued across our website which now offers more information including fact sheets, statistics and campaign updates.

Stemming from our strategic plan we are also exploring new avenues of increasing our membership base. To date we have invited all supporters of Humane Charities Australia to join AAHR, sent out a membership form with each newsletter asking current members to sign up a friend and written personally to people who have allowed their memberships to lapse over the past few years. We will also be looking at extending our membership through our presence at expos and during presentations.

Two new campaigns are about to be launched with details to be provided on our website, newsletters and media releases. We have chosen to focus our efforts on the importation of primates and the use of pound dogs in

research. These issues were chosen as the community has more sympathy for primates and dogs than for rats and mice.

Throughout our time here we have also undertaken several submissions, including to the NZ Bioethics Council about xenotransplantation, the Dept of Human Services (VIC) on Ethical Principles of Biotechnology and the Federal Dept of Education, Science and Training on their Research Quality Framework. While such work attracts little media attention it is vital if we are to reach those decision-makers who can bring about change.

By creating a balance of focus on publicity and education, membership promotion, government submissions and direct campaigning I believe we will be well on track to achieve our objectives.

Finally, my sincere thanks to a number of people – to Kier for his hard work and commitment to ensuring the success of our move to Melbourne, as well as for the support he has provided to me in my role, and to Elizabeth Ahlston for entrusting me with the organization she founded and nurtured over the past 28 years. I also want to express my gratitude to a wonderful Management Committee which has taken on the role with such interest and enthusiasm. I do believe that together we all make a brilliant team which gives me such confidence in knowing that we will be a successful organization that will certainly make an impact on animal research in Australia.

Helen Rosser

AAHR 11 August 2005.

We are pleased to advise the following people were re-nominated to the management committee for 2005/2006:

President:	Mrs Steph Geddes
Vice President:	Mrs Elizabeth Jackson
Treasurer:	Mr Miles O'Connor
Secretary:	Mr Brian Gardiner
Committee members:	Mrs Jenny Fairless Mrs Sarah Gardiner Mr Barrie Cooper

AGM Report

For those of you who would like a full copy of the AGM report and financial statements, please contact our office, 9.00am - 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday, on **(03) 9832 0752**, or you can email us at **info@aahr.asn.au**, and we will send one in the post.

NHMRC research funding

In July 2005, the federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Tony Abbott, announced that the Commonwealth Government has allocated more than \$100 million for leading medical research and clinical trials, including leukaemia, HIV/AIDS, cancer and arthritis.

Of the \$100 million, \$80 million was allocated to medical research, \$9 million for new equipment, \$10 million to support existing clinical trials and \$2.5 million for researchers to transform their work into commercial products.

AAHR contacted the minister and learned that approximately 60% of the \$80 million was allocated to projects involving animals.

Source: Personal correspondence with Dept of Health & Ageing

Stem cell restrictions lifted – Democrats

The Australian Democrats welcomed the end to restrictions on the age of excess IVF embryos for use in stem cell research.

The restriction was lifted on 5 April, and will allow embryos created after 5 April 2002 to also be used for specific research purposes.

Source: Australian Democrats Media Release 6th April 2005

The Age

Animal experimentation gets very little media coverage and we were therefore pleased that Melbourne's *Age* newspaper featured a front page article titled 'Sacrificed for science' plus an extra supplement titled 'Animals under the knife'. The articles were more balanced than most media reports and we did of course grab the opportunity to continue the discussion through the letters page. We have reproduced a copy of the letter below.

Vioxx legal action

A Texas jury has found pharmaceutical giant, Merck and Co., liable for the death of a former Vioxx user, awarding \$337 million in damages to his widow. The verdict over the dangerous anti-arthritis drug Vioxx has resulted in Australian lawyers launching a class action on behalf of 100 Australians against the manufacturers of the drug.

Vioxx was withdrawn from sale in October 2004 after being linked to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke. This is, of course, after having been proven 'safe' through animal tests! It has been used by at least 300,000 arthritis sufferers in Australia alone.

Source: *Sunday Herald Sun* 21st August 2005

Tissue Therapies Ltd.

In November 2004, Australian biomedical company Tissue Therapies Ltd announced the launch of *VitroGro*® - a synthetic, animal product free technology that is likely to replace the use of animals in product testing and some forms of medical research.

VitroGro® technology has the potential to replace Foetal Bovine Serum – a product cruelly derived from unborn calves at abattoirs and used as a growth medium for cell cultures and for the production of antibodies (even those that are non-animal derived).

We were disappointed to learn that despite the product's potential to replace animal tests, the company is still proceeding with animal tests to establish its efficacy. For example, their skin model has been tested by applying it to scalded pigs. We therefore contacted US group Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine to seek an alternative to the pig-scalding experiments and Tissue Therapies have advised that they will contact the US researchers to consider collaboration.

A dangerous science, not a 'necessary evil'

I CONGRATULATE *The Age* (25/6) for highlighting the serious issue of animal experiments — a dangerous and unethical activity that has continued unabated for too long as it is screened from public scrutiny.

Researchers' claims that animal experiments are "essential for advancements in human medicine or human benefit" and "essential for developing drugs to help humans" are typical of their tired attempts at justifying their actions.

Not only is animal use unnecessary, but it is dangerously misleading. We only need to look at the number of drugs recalled due to life-threatening side effects that were not identified through animal tests. Thalidomide is the most well-known example, but there are many others. Most recently, arthritis medication Vioxx was recalled last September as it had been found to increase the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Results from animal-based research cannot be extrapolated to humans with any accuracy, due to the genetic and molecular differences between species. Another problem is that often a disease that is being researched does not appear in its natural

4 Results from animal-based research cannot be extrapolated to humans with any accuracy. 7

state but instead is artificially induced in the research animal. This can result in the same symptoms being expressed but the underlying illness not being the same as in its human form. Treatments try to cure the symptoms of the falsified illness, but do not address or cure the real problem, which may have been caused, or further affected, by

social and environmental factors rather than biological factors alone.

Researchers cite a number of examples in which they consider the use of animals to be integral. However, they do not provide any measure of how the perceived successes compare with the number of delays and disasters that animal use has caused throughout history. For example, 85 per cent of drugs that reach clinical trial fail to attain general distribution.

We constantly read headlines that "breakthroughs" have been made in the fight against cancer, yet it remains one of the greatest killers in the Western world. What we don't hear about are the many drugs that are recalled. We must dispel the myth that animal research is a "necessary evil" and acknowledge it is simply dangerous science.

Helen Rosser, CEO, Australian Association for Humane Research, Malvern

Tissue Therapies has recently announced that their technology may provide a cure for chronic diabetic ulcers

and the prevention of limb amputation caused by diabetes. They anticipate a “move to animal trials as soon as possible”.
Source: Personal correspondence with Tissue Therapies Ltd. and “Tissue Therapies Investor Newsletter April 2005”

News from Overseas

Uncaged condemns Pro-Animal testing declaration

A declaration signed by over 500 leading British doctors and scientists has been dismissed by UK group Uncaged as an extreme and misleading PR stunt. The declaration was drawn up by drug industry-funded lobby group the Research Defense Society (RDS), and said that a small but vital part of work into new medicines involved the use of animals.

The RDS has claimed that there would be no medical progress were it not for animal experimentation – a claim that Uncaged has branded as absurd and pointed out that such claims have already been criticized by the recent Nuffield Bioethics Council report.

The RDS also claims that there is no scientific opposition to animal experimentation. However, a recent poll by patient advocacy group Europeans for Medical Progress has demonstrated widespread medical skepticism regarding the reliability of animal research, and anecdotal evidence suggests that many doctors and researchers are afraid to speak out against the entrenched pro-animal research position for fear of damaging their career prospects.

Source: Uncaged Campaigns UK

Croatia dog rescue

Animal Friends Croatia have successfully campaigned to free 32 beagles from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Zagreb, Croatia.

The beagles were freed after extensive protests and media coverage of the Croatian group who claimed the dogs were kept in narrow cages and denied toys, walks or any



interaction with other dogs or people, and were to be used in bone-breaking experiments.

Focus on Alternatives – tissue bank for UK

A collaboration of British non-profit groups that promote and fund alternatives to animal experiments has launched a campaign to heighten awareness of the need for human tissue in medical research. The coalition, called Focus on Alternatives (FoA) will urge the public to donate tissues for life-saving research, and aims to encourage the wider use of human tissues by the scientific community.

Human tissues and cells removed during operations are often thrown away as surgical waste, but could be put to good use for medical research.

The campaign is supported by a number of scientists, including Dr Robert Coleman, Chief Scientific Officer of Pharmagene Laboratories who has stated:

“Humans are not mice. We believe most strongly that greater use of human tissues in the pharmaceutical industry’s research and development activities will significantly enhance its performance in bringing safe and effective new drugs to market.”

Source: Dr Hadwen Trust media release, 16th August 2005

Britain pledges more funding to reduce animal testing

The British Government has announced plans to provide 3 million pounds to its National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research. The

centre was established in May 2004 and provides grants for 3Rs-related research projects.

Source: *Medical Research Modernization Committee update, 6th August 2005*

EU upholds ban on animal testing for cosmetics

A European Union (EU) court has dismissed legal action by France to block a ban on animal testing of cosmetics. The ban is expected to begin in 2009. It was argued by France, home of some of the largest cosmetics companies in the world that the law would breach the EU's commitments to World Trade Organisation agreements.

Source: *Medical Research Modernization Committee update, 6th August 2005*

Breakdown in climate control kills monkeys in Korea

Ninety nine monkeys were killed in Korea's only primate studies centre due to a breakdown in their climate control system. A power transformer at the Daejeon-based institute caught fire on 20 April which caused a malfunction in the temperature control system for at least two hours. As a result, the temperature inside the laboratory rose out of control, threatening 135 monkeys kept inside a sealed room, of which more than half were found dead.

The institute has said that it would import 30 monkeys from Indonesia to continue its research.

Source: *Joongang Daily, 27th April 2005*

Merchandise

Merchandise

AAHR now has merchandise for sale. Wear our t-shirts! Use our mugs! Display our bumper stickers! Tell the world of your opposition to animal research.

Prices include postage and handling.

T/Shirts: \$25

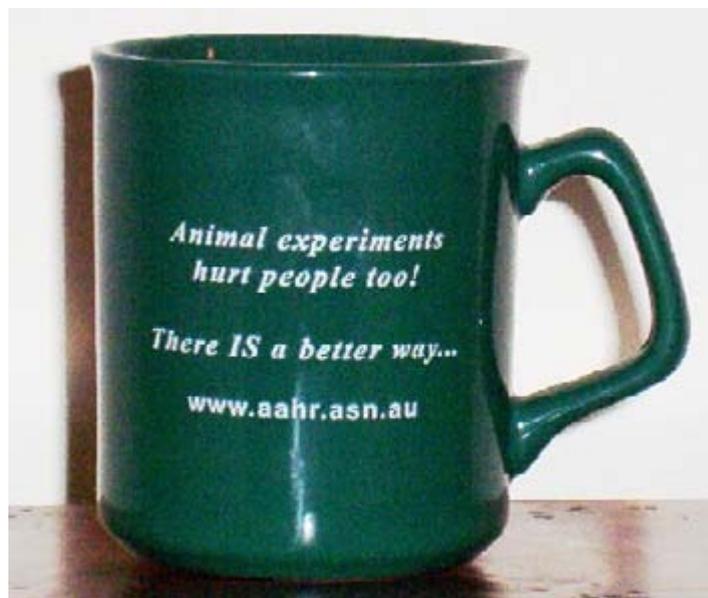
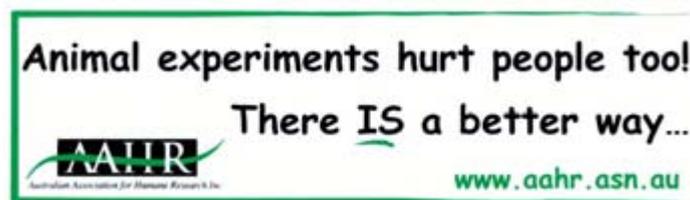
available in green and black in sizes: S/M/L

Mugs: \$15

white text on green

Bumper Stickers: \$2

An order form can be downloaded from the merchandise page of our website, or you can phone or write to the office, supplying us with your address, and a cheque or credit card details and the items required (inc. size/colour if applicable).



And Finally...

*Animal tests
Hurt people too
'Cos what saves them
May well kill you.*

*Animal research is a sham
'Cos a mouse is not
A little man.*

Jenny Moxham