



MEDIA RELEASE

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WORLD WEEK FOR ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES (WWAIL)

Each year in April, animal groups around the world recognize World Week for Animals in Laboratories (WWAIL) - a time to highlight the abhorrent use of animals in research and teaching.

Chief Executive Officer, Helen Marston, said today *“It’s an absolute travesty that with today’s technologies Australia continues to use more than 7 million animals per year in archaic animal experiments.”*

A recent opinion poll has revealed that only 62% of the general public is even aware that animals are used in experimental research in Australia. The survey, conducted by Nexus Research, was commissioned by AAHR Inc. with the assistance of a grant from Voiceless and Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics.

To raise awareness, AAHR is taking to the streets of Melbourne as colourful characters distributing green ribbons to train commuters at morning peak hours.

The Green Ribbon campaign was launched in 2008, to highlight the existence of cutting-edge technological research methods that avoid the use of animals and to promote these alternatives as the most effective and humane strategy to eliminate human diseases and provide safer medicines. It’s a simple way for people to show their opposition to animal experiments. Details are at www.humaneawareness.org.au.

Ms Marston concluded: *“Not only has animal-based research caused serious health problems by extrapolating data to humans, but we may also have lost many lifesaving drugs and treatments because they did not work on other animals.”*

“Animal experiments are a waste of valuable resources – money and effort that would be far better spent conducting ethical and species-specific research.”

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