



MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA'S SHAMEFUL RECORD OF ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS

Approximately 7 million animals were used in research and teaching in the last recorded year (2006) in Australia – a staggering increase of 23.2% (or approx. 1.6 million animals) from the previous year. Even more alarmingly, Australia experiments on more animals per capita than other nations including the UK.

	Human population (July 07)	No. of animals used	Animals used per capita
European Union	490,426,000	12.1 million (2005)	0.025
United Kingdom	60,776,000	3.20 million (2007)	0.052
New Zealand	4,116,000	318,489 (2006)	0.077
Australia	20,440,000	6.9 million (2006)	0.338

Chief Executive Officer, Helen Rosser, said today *“Australia likes to pride itself on it’s supposedly highly regulated and ethical systems of using animals, but these figures prove that the entire system is a sham. Australia sadly lags well behind other countries in terms of embracing non-animal alternatives, has no commitment to the 3R’s principle (Replace, Reduce and Refine) and continues with archaic methods despite the growing evidence that non-animal technologies are far more humane and provide more accurate and scientifically-valid data.”*

Types of research conducted recently in Australia include:

Marmoset monkeys having their skulls sawn to insert electrodes to measure visual activity in the brain - Monash University.

Pregnant sheep fed alcohol and then killed to examine the affect on their fetuses (despite this information already being well –established in humans) – University of Adelaide.

Anaesthetised rabbits having their throats cut for cardiac students from Monash University to administer drugs and monitor their reaction (despite this lesson being available on video).

Rats fed beer by psychology students at University of Sydney to determine their preference to sucrose water (the experiment did not produce any conclusive results).

“A recent report by UK groups Dr Hadwen Trust and British Union Against Vivisection has revealed that the United Kingdom’s statistics have reached 3 million animals for the first time in 16 years. While British campaigners have called the increase “an appalling failure” they would be horrified to learn of Australia’s shameful record!” Ms Rosser concluded.

Detailed breakdowns of the statistics can be obtained from <http://www.aahr.org.au/statistics.html>

Details of the above experiments are at <http://www.aahr.org.au/experiments/index.html>

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