



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**19 April 2010**

## **WORLD WEEK FOR ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES**

April 18-24 is World Week for Animals in Laboratories – a time to raise awareness of the many animals used for the purposes of research and teaching.

**Chief Executive Officer, Helen Marston**, said today *“Sadly, many people are unaware of the extent of animal experimentation within Australia. They know it involves pain and suffering to animals but falsely believe that it is necessary if we are to find cures to diseases. This popular misconception has allowed the suffering of millions of animals to continue unabated behind closed doors.”*

Facts:

More than 7 million animals are used in research and teaching in Australia every year.  
9 out of 10 drugs effective in animal models fail when applied to humans.  
Animals differ from humans anatomically, genetically and metabolically, making them inappropriate models for human disease.

*“Fortunately, there are now many alternatives that not only spare animals from the laboratory, but also provide **better** outcomes for human cures. Humane Research Australia works professionally and ethically to champion the benefits of these realistic, scientifically effective alternatives to all forms of animal usage in research and teaching,”* Ms Marston concluded.

Humane Research Australia is urging everyone to take the following actions during the week:

Wear a green ribbon or purple wristband to help raise awareness by speaking to people about what they represent (available from our office).  
Contact their favourite medical or health charity asking whether donations to them are used to fund animal experiments. Refer to [www.humanecharities.org.au](http://www.humanecharities.org.au) as a reference guide as to what charities do NOT support animal experiments. Then, tell them you will not donate to them until they stop supporting cruel and pointless research.

Our new television commercial is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erZ6p8NI88s>

For further information about Humane Research Australia Inc. contact:  
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