

MEDIA RELEASE

21 April 2010

## KITTY MCSPORRAN SAVES THE ANIMALS

In recognition of World Week for Animals in Laboratories (WWAIL, 18-24 April) Humane Research Australia is proudly supporting budding author and HRA member, Kathleen McLaren by printing 3,000 copies of her book 'Kitty McSporran Saves The Animals (with the help of her magic cape)'.

This wonderfully-written and superbly-illustrated story book aims to encourage readers (aged 9-100 years) to question the use of animals as laboratory tools. It encourages questions about the ethics of the practice, encourages thought about our relationship with other animals, raises concern over the scientific validity of using animals as models for humans and informs the reader that there are reliable and ethical alternatives available for use in medical research.

The books will be distributed to public and primary school libraries throughout Australia free of charge for use by children, parents and teachers.

**HRA 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. Fortunately, there are now many alternatives that not only spare animals from the laboratory, but also provide **better** outcomes for human cures.”*

*“This wonderful story about Kitty McSporran addresses this taboo subject in a colourful and non-confronting way. Readers share in Kitty’s discovery that by not accepting the status quo, we can show compassion to other animals AND further medical research.”*

### 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.

To contact author Kathleen McLaren for comments/interview/photo:  
Ph. 03 6228 1238 or email [kmclaren@comcen.com.au](mailto:kmclaren@comcen.com.au)

For further information about Humane Research Australia Inc. contact:  
Helen Marston, Chief Executive Officer email [helenmarston@humanereseach.org.au](mailto:helenmarston@humanereseach.org.au)