



humane research australia

MEDIA RELEASE

8th November 2013

China announces a phase out of cosmetics testing on animals

Humane Research Australia welcomes the announcement by China's Food & Drug Administration that from June 2014, China plans to remove its mandatory animal test requirements for domestically manufactured cosmetic products.

For the first time ever, Chinese companies producing "non-special use cosmetics" such as shampoo or perfume will have the option to substantiate product safety using existing safety data for raw ingredients, or European Union-validated non-animal tests instead of having to submit product samples to the government for testing on rabbits, mice and rats. It is estimated that as many as 300,000 rabbits, mice and other animals may be subject to cosmetics chemical testing each year in China alone.

The CFDA's announcement comes less than five months after the successful launch of Humane Society International's groundbreaking Be Cruelty-Free China campaign. Based in Beijing, HSI's team has been working diligently with Chinese policymakers and regulators to advance the acceptance of non-animal tests and accelerate a move away from animal testing. This culminated in the first-ever review of China's cosmetics law in 20 years, with Be Cruelty-Free China submitting a detailed technical proposal outlining cosmetics safety testing without animals.

Helen Marston, Humane Research Australia CEO said: *"Chinese legislation has been a major obstacle to an international ban of cosmetics testing on animals. We congratulate our international colleagues on this huge achievement which will allow Australian companies access to the lucrative Chinese market and remain cruelty-free."*

Humane Research Australia and Choose Cruelty Free are the Australian partners of the international Be Cruelty Free Campaign which is spearheaded by Humane Society International.

Globally, Humane Society International and its Be Cruelty-Free partners are leading the charge to end cosmetics cruelty in Australia, Brazil, China, Korea, New Zealand, Russia and beyond.

"Currently, in Australia there is no legal ban preventing companies from testing cosmetic products or ingredients on animals. Cosmetics tested on animals abroad can also be imported and sold in Australia's shops. But the Be Cruelty-Free Australia campaign run by HSI, Humane Research Australia and Choose Cruelty Free, aims to see that changed. The announcement by China can help make this a reality" Ms Marston concluded.

Suite 704, 1 Princess St, Kew VIC 3101
www.humaneresearch.org.au