

The response reproduced below was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on the ethics of research involving animals during October-December 2003. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

## Citizen Science Debate at Bristol Science Centre – The Ethics of Animal Research, UK

### Group Position Statements

What is your view about the use of animals in research?

Brislington School – Key Stage 4 Students

**Are there any kinds of animals that you think should never be used?**

- Rare animals
- Animals with dangerous diseases
- Gorillas, chimpanzees and other primates because they are really intelligent
- Working animals such as horses and dogs, because they have a purpose
- Dogs, cats, monkeys, pandas, koalas polar bears, whales, hippos and any other animals that could easily become extinct or are kept as a household pet
- Dogs, tigers, cats, horses, monkeys, guinea pigs

For what kinds of research do you feel use of animals is acceptable/not acceptable?

#### **Acceptable:**

- Research for life-threatening human diseases
- Research for diseases
- Research for cures for terminal diseases and medicines that could save human lives

#### **Not acceptable:**

- Research for make-up
- Research for hair products and other cosmetics
- Research for cosmetics and household cleaning items

**How do you feel about the use of genetically modified animals for medical research?**

- Fine – because it could save lives
- OK if they are used to help cure diseases, but not if they are used to grow human organs because it would be unnatural and cruel
- Using specially bred animals is fine, but using wild animals is wrong
- It depends on the type of animal

What alternatives could be used? Are these any good?

- Human cloning
- Computer models that simulate body systems
- Experiments with cells or tissues in test tubes
- Artificial skins
- Human volunteers – if people are willing to use the product they should be willing to test it
- Epidemiological studies
- Use of something that is similar to humans and animals
- Keep organs alive for testing on
- Don't try to create new medicines – only use ones we already know are safe

### **Churchfield School, Swindon – Key Stage 3 Students**

**Are there any kinds of animals that you think should never be used?**

Big animals - small animals like rats and mice are OK.

**What alternatives to animal testing could be used?**

Volunteers with terminal illnesses  
Dead bodies

### ***Other Comments***

The number of animals used should be small and the number of people benefited should be large

Don't test on animals that have a completely different immune system to humans.

Pigs should be killed for their organs.

For using animals in research:

- could help people and cure diseases.

Against using animals in research:

- It is like playing God,
- could be in the wrong hands,
- have to draw a line,
- shouldn't bring in extra intelligence

## **John O'Gaunt School – Key Stage 3 Students**

### **Group 1**

**Are there any kinds of animals that you think should never be used?**

- Humans
- Animals close to extinction should only be bred for conservation, not for testing on
- Non mammals, because they may have different properties
- Rare/endangered animals
- Animals that people keep as pets

For what kinds of research do you feel use of animals is acceptable/not acceptable?

#### **Acceptable:**

- If it is a life and death situation

#### **Not acceptable:**

- cosmetics

**How do you feel about the use of genetically modified animals for medical research?**

**What alternatives could be used? Are these any good?**

- Use cells to test shower gel

## **John O'Gaunt School – Key Stage 3 Students**

### **Group 2**

**Are there any kinds of animals that you think should never be used?**

- Endangered species
- domestic pets
- animals crucial to food chains
- Dogs, because they are useful and help blind people and provide company for lonely people.

For what kinds of research do you feel use of animals is acceptable/not acceptable?

**Acceptable:**

- Medical research
- *Some* home cleaning products
- Research about diseases
- Serious diseases such as cancer, leukaemia, heart and lung disease as long as the animals aren't directly given the disease deliberately
- Life-threatening diseases that affect animals as well as humans

**Not acceptable:**

- Make up
- Washing-up liquids and bleaches

**How do you feel about the use of genetically modified animals for medical research?**

- It depends what medical research
- It's OK as long as they are bred especially because the animals wouldn't have been alive anyway
- It's OK for medical research, but not for make-up.

What alternatives could be used? Are these any good?

- Toxicity tests etc.
- Humans should be tested for some less serious diseases
- Epidemiological studies
- Cells or tissues in test tubes where no-one is put at risk.
- Artificial skins
- Computer models, but are expensive and may not give an accurate result
- Human volunteers