

**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.**

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Until people begin to think as deeply as they feel, there will always be a reality gap. Beyond assurances the work we do is done ethically with the highest standards for humane treatment of animals, and that alternatives are either not yet available or not acceptable to regulatory agencies, there is little we can do for those who oppose the science they don't understand. Science is the candle in the dark, as Carl Sagan wrote, but the world, I fear, is filled with pampered, spoiled, neo-luddite candle snuffers who are remarkably comfortable with their ignorance. With their leadership, we could return to the middle ages.