

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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Question 1.

I totally oppose the use of animals in research.

I feel that any living creature should be given the same level of compassion as any other. Thus if it is unacceptable to conduct research on a human being, I feel that it is also unacceptable to conduct said research on any other living creature, be it a pig, sheep, mouse or any other animal.

I think that results from research using animals are not always relevant to humans. The body is a complex organism, and different creature react in different ways to things.

I feel that it is no more right to use an animal for research into Cancer prevention than to use an animal to test cosmetics. All forms of animal testing are abhorrent.

I think that the majority of animals suffer during research, whether it be physical pain or emotional pain. I feel that any level of suffering is unacceptable.

If testing on live creatures is required, volunteering human beings should be used, not animals who have no voice.

Question 2.

I totally oppose the creation and use of genetically modified animals in research.

Yes, I feel that such animals are unnatural, and feel that we are creating creatures with insufficient knowledge about the short and long term effects on them. This then causes unnecessary suffering, and in many cases premature death.

It can never be justified to create an animal to suffer on a long term basis. That, no matter how it is dressed up, is pure torture.

Cloning is also an area of research that both scares and horrifies me.

Question 3.

There is definitely a need for more research into alternatives to research involving animals.

This should be funded by any company which has caused suffering to any creature by supporting research using animals.

There is much duplication as large corporations compete to be the first to release highly profitable drugs and other products.

All research should be freely shared in order to reduce duplication, but this will never happen whilst so much money is at stake!

Question 4.

I feel that all creatures have the same moral status. It is never morally acceptable to willingly or knowingly harm any creature. Observation of animals in their natural habitat has taught us that many animals are capable of complex thoughts and emotions.

I completely oppose the use of animals as pets, for food, for clothing, or in sport. As a vegan I eat no animal derivatives, wear no animal derivatives, and would only ever "keep" a companion animal if I felt that by doing so I could help it to lead a happier life. (eg if a rescue dog could either share my home or be put down I would select the former, but I would never buy a "pet" from a breeder or dealer.

Question 5.

I feel that the current regulations are not nearly strict enough.

I realize that animal research is not going to stop overnight (except in my dreams), and so feel that unannounced visits by inspectors should be dramatically increased.

25 inspectors covering 2.73 million animals used for research each year, means that huge numbers of animals may suffer in silence, never seen by an inspector.

It can never be right to say that "We can not stop immoral experiments in this country as this will force them elsewhere". That is on a par to saying that we will not jail rapists as they will rape in other countries instead. The long term aim must be to improve animal welfare in all countries.

Question 6.

I think that most information involving animal research is shrouded in secrecy so as not to upset or offend the general public.

No one who makes a profit from the use of animals can be trusted to give out information to the public.

An independent body which represents animal welfare groups, and the general public should be set up to monitor and educate.

Everyone should be kept informed of the numbers of animals used, harmed, and killed during animal research each year.

All medicines should be labeled to say whether they were developed using animal research, and whether they contain animal products, in order that people can make an informed choice over their use.