

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.

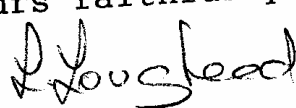
L. Lougheed, UK

Dear Sir

re. Animal research.  
I am strongly opposed to the use of animals in medical research. As a nurse I am fully aware of diseases, but do not feel that we should inflict these problems on unfortunate animals, when insufficient is being done to encourage alternative methods. This is shown by the government's backing of a new primate research facility in Cambridge for hundreds of animals. To have housing for that number of animals the conclusion drawn must be that continual animal use is intended, not just when considered absolutely imperative.

If some use of animals is deemed necessary it should be open to public scrutiny. Not just the people involved saying that it is needed - possibly for financial reward. The 1986 Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act is failing to regulate and protect the animals, so allowing extreme suffering of many. Abuse of animals is an offence - why should it be acceptable in a laboratory?.

Yours faithfully

 L. Lougheed.