

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.

*This response was submitted using the online facility:*

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## **QUESTIONS ANSWERED:**

### **1. Background: the use of animals in research**

#### **ANSWER:**

I do not believe that there is any justification for causing stress and/or pain to any living creature purely for the benefit of one species, i.e MAN. The government should be funding research into alternatives to vivisection. More use should be made of Tissue, Cell and Organs taken from animals and humans that have died naturally or (in the case of animals), by legal methods of euthanasia due to accident or illness. More humans should be encouraged to donate organs or their bodies to research.

### **2. Genetically modified animals**

#### **ANSWER:**

The whole idea of genetic engineering is abhorrent. Whatever controls are in place now could easily be lifted in the future. There are no guarantees that humans will not be cloned in the future. Politicians can NOT be trusted; neither can scientists.

### **3. Alternatives**

#### **ANSWER:**

The government and the private investor should fund research into alternative methods of scientific research. Alternatives to be improved on are: Computer models, Cell and tissue research and organ research. These can be obtained from animals that have died through illness, accident or natural causes. Humans should be encouraged to donate their bodies after death. After all humans are the chief beneficiaries of research.

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### **4. Ethical issues**

#### **ANSWER:**

Anyone who has worked with animals has no doubt that they suffer pain and distress. All animals have the right to lead a life free from the intentional cause of pain. If mankind wants perfection, then mankind should pay the price and submit himself to research.

### **5. The regulations**

#### **ANSWER:**

To ban research in this country may well drive research abroad but that is no excuse for

the U.K. to be apart of a practice that is immoral.

**6: Providing information to the public**

**ANSWER:**

The public should be shown un-censored information, preferably visual, about ALL aspects of research. I'm sure that many more people would be appalled if they had to see the evidence. No one has the right to condone vivisection if they are not willing to see the evidence.