

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 feel that it is morally wrong for Man to decide that he is almighty and has the right to do what he wants, no matter what the cost. IT wasn't that long ago since some countries felt the same about black people! And surely in a way wasn't that how Hitler felt about the Jews!

2. Genetically modified animals

ANSWER:

The idea of Genetic modification fills me with horror. It sounds like something out of a science fiction film! It is interfering with Nature at it's worst.I feel that this interference could produce more harm than good. It is already illegal to introduce deliberately or accidentally a nonindigenous species into the wild, because of the damage to and corruption of Nature. What if this was to happen with an "alien" animal created in a laboratory.

3. Alternatives

ANSWER:

I do not feel that nearly enough emphasis is placed on alternatives to animal experimentation. Breeding laboratory animals for research is a very lucrative business! A large portion of available funding should be forced into exploring other methods. Universities and businesses should encourage new entrants to explore this avenue.

4. Ethical issues

ANSWER:

Most animals display body language and behaviour that indicate to its good owner, or keeper whether it is relaxed, happy, sad, in pain etc.The sheer volume of animals used compared to the humans responsible for their welfare makes this unlikely in a laboratory situation. The ban on great Apes recognises that it is wrong to use them in this way, no matter what the benefit, surely the same logic applies whatever the species.

5. The regulations

ANSWER:

It is crazy that with so many animals in laboratory situations there are only 25 inspectors, for a start. 125 would probably not be enough! All inspections should be unannounced, random and every animal held should be inspected.

6: Providing information to the public

ANSWER:

All food stuff has to be labelled to show ingredients now. The more information shown the better, eg if an item has not been tested on animals, but some ingredients have, this

should be shown. Let the people make up their own minds - it up to the individual and their conscience.