

CLEIMUN19

“Collaboration in a Polarized World: Hope for the Future?”

A Research Report

COMMITTEE: WHO

QUESTION OF: The Question of Animal Testing in Relation to Modern-day Medicine

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Introduction & Background

Animals are often used in the testing of drugs, vaccines, and medical devices to determine the safety of the medical product. Laws around the world require that drugs be tested on animals before human clinical trials. In the past years, animal testing has been questioned as a credible resource to test medical products. While testing animals have resulted in many life-saving cures and treatments, over 100 million innocent animals suffer every year. As technology advances more resources and alternatives to testing on animals emerge, but they must be capable of matching the success of using animals in medical tests.

Positives of Animal Testing

Animal testing has led to thousands of medical advances in treating and curing some of the most threatening diseases for both humans and animals. Without animal testing, insulin wouldn't be accessible to those suffering from diabetes. Using animal for clinical trials also helped to develop the Polio vaccine. Polio cases have decreased by 99% after the vaccine was introduced. Animal testing ensures the safety of humans and saves millions of human lives.

Ethics of Animal Testing

Animals that are put through medical test endure immense pain and never given anesthesia.

Animals that are subject in these medical experiments experience forced feeding, forced inhalation, starvation, physical restraint, burns, surgical procedures, and genetic manipulation.

Many cases of even worse abuse against animals also question whether animal testing is ethical.

The use of animals in testing for medical products prevent the use of humans in clinical experiments. Testing on humans before testing on humans could be very dangerous and completely goes against The World Medical Association Declaration that does not allow human trials before animal. Religious ethic also pose an important point of view. Jewish, Christian, and Muslim ideologies concede testing on animals, but only if it shows a real reason to benefit humans and avoids unnecessary pain inflicted on the animal. Hindu and Buddhist teachings instruct humans to respect and bring no harm to other living beings.

Dangers of Animal Testing

The use of animals in medical testing cannot always be reliable. In the 1950's, a drug called Thalidomide was tested on animals and then marketed to treat morning sickness during pregnancy. Thalidomide caused severe birth defects in thousands of children. Hundreds of other drugs tested of animals that were successful have led to physical harm and even death. Animals and humans are so anatomically different that tests done on animals can be difficult to translate into human use. Only $\frac{1}{3}$ of substances that cause cancer in human have shown to cause cancer in animals. Cancer has been cured in mice for decades, yet it is still the main causes of death in humans.

Past Efforts To Solve This Problem

The UN does not currently endorse any agreement relating to the welfare on animals use for medical testing, but the UN has been proposed the Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare (UDAW). The UDAW is a set of principles that encourage nations to improve animal protection legislation. This agreement recognizes that animals are sentient, that prevention of cruelty and suffering should prioritized, and promote standards on welfare. Although the UN has not yet considered the endorsement, several countries and global organizations have shown support.

Possible Solution

A solution to this problem should use collaboration between nations to find a solution to please all sides of this question. Delegates must consider the ethics of animal testing while finding a solution and alternatives to testing on animals. Possible alternatives to animal testing should also be heavily considered. Religious beliefs also must be considered when finding a solution. Delegates must ponder the present and future of animal testing.

Works Cited

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