



**For Life On Earth (FLOE) Campaign with Ricky Gervais, Peter Egan and Rescued laboratory dog Scarlett Beagle**

**As featured in the Daily Mirror headline exclusives of [June 21<sup>st</sup>](#) and [September 27<sup>th</sup>](#) 2021**

**Position Statement on Parliament EDM 175 – Westminster Hall Debate to Ban Animal Testing, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

## **Introduction**

For Life On Earth is the leading science-based campaign against animal experiments; our recent exposés, revealing harrowing footage showing the factory farming of laboratory dogs, here in the UK, made headline news in [June](#) and [September](#). Our campaign is led by Ricky Gervais and Peter Egan, with the help of our Beagle Ambassador, rescued laboratory dog, Scarlett - who won Daily Mirror, Animal Hero, Inspirational Animal of the Year, 2018, for her part in helping to ban animal experiments. The science experts who illustrate our evidence are the foremost in this field, defeating plans by Cambridge University to build a non-human primate laboratory, with a ruling against that lab on ‘national interest, medical and scientific grounds’. (1)

## **Headline News**

For Life On Earth's recent exposés, published as exclusive headline news in the Daily Mirror, reveal, for the first time, harrowing footage showing the factory farming of laboratory puppies, in the heart of the British countryside. The Mirror report shows a film revealing panicking dogs being picked up by the scruff of their necks and placed into overcrowded trollies; distress cries are heard from hundreds of puppies, kept inside the intensive breeding unit at MBR Acres for their entire lives. The film shows the gavage procedure, where dogs are force-fed chemicals directly into their stomachs, every day for up to 90 days, with no pain relief or anaesthetic. In 2020, 67% of all experiments on dogs in this country involved this procedure, which is classified as 'mild suffering' by the Home Office. What does this say about the suffering endured by sentient animals under 'moderate' or 'severe' Home Office licences? According to the latest Home Office statistics for scientific procedures on living animals, a total of 4 270 experiments were conducted on beagles in 2020 (a significant *increase* in number compared to the figure of 4 055 in 2019).

## **The Medical Failure of Animal Experiments**

UK bred laboratory dogs, and all other laboratory animals, are excluded from the protection of the Animal Welfare Act, and are therefore victims of the Act's 'unnecessary suffering' clause, because they are used in experiments that are today widely reported to be failing the search for human treatments and cures. This failure of using animals, in human medical research and safety testing, is reported by many experts including those publishing in the *British Medical Journal*; (2) at the Food and Drug Administration – which states that nine out of ten new medicines fail to pass human trials because animals cannot predict human responses (3) – and at the US-based National Cancer Institute, which says we have lost cures for cancer because studies in rodents have been believed. (4) Scientists working in the pharmaceutical industry openly acknowledge the failure of animal models in their drug development process, and write about this often in the peer reviewed scientific literature. (5)

## **Evidence-Based Science**

Claims that animals have predictive value for humans are made by animal-based researchers without providing any peer reviewed references.

Whilst innovative human-based test methods are required to undergo a rigorous scientific evaluation known as 'validation', in order to be accepted at the regulatory level, the 'animal model' has never been subjected to validation to determine its reliability and relevance in the study of human diseases, or for testing pharmaceutical products intended for human use.

The use of dogs and other animals, as living test tubes to fulfil regulatory requirements, has for decades escaped the rigors of a science-based evaluation and should now be examined, in detail, as a matter of urgency: this examination is called for by the scientific hearing outlined in Parliament EDM 175.

## **Human-Based Research**

Today, we have entered the age of personalised medicine, where the individual DNA of each patient is being mapped, as well as the individual DNA of that patient's cancer (by way of example) and treatments are then administered to target the exact requirements of that unique person and their unique illness. This is the incredible field of gene-based medicine. Even identical twins are now accepted to respond *entirely differently* to drugs and disease. In light of this extraordinary medical knowledge and advancement, the continued funding of laboratory animal models, using a completely different species from humans, certainly belongs in the history books of 1847, when animal experimentation was first institutionalised by a French doctor, Claude Bernard, who went on to reject the Theory of Evolution.

Science often progresses through the inspired efforts of lone individuals. Albert Einstein brought us the Theory of Relativity; Charles Darwin wrote a book about the Theory of Evolution and changed the world. Similarly, medical doctor Ray Greek, with his late research partner Dr. Niall Shanks PhD, published the basis for Trans-Species Modelling Theory in 2009. (6) This is another overarching Science Theory based on evolutionary biology and complexity science. Trans-Species Modelling Theory explains why animal models have never demonstrated predictive value for humans, in medical research and safety testing, and never will.

## **Outdated Laws**

The regulatory requirement, that animals be used in tests before proceeding to human trials, was first established in 1946 in the Nuremberg Code. Since then, science has advanced by 75 years, but we are still using the same outdated laws to govern human medical research practice. This is tantamount to criminal medical negligence. (7)

The 1986 Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act is also out-of-date. It is underpinned by a policy called the 3Rs, established in 1959 for 'humane experimental technique on animals': both the Act and its 3Rs policy have been surpassed by the 2003 Human Genome Project, bringing new knowledge in evolutionary biology and developmental biology; genetics, gene regulation, gene expression and gene networks – in addition to advances in understanding complex systems – all of which has significantly increased our understanding on why animals will never hold predictive value for human patients. (8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18).

Human-based research has a track record of success, and is not an 'alternative' for animal experimentation, which comes with a 90% fail rate [FDA]. Human-based research is viable. Words have meanings and in science, those meanings can have life and death consequences: supporters of animal experiments misuse the word 'alternative' to claim that animal experiments work, and are interchangeable with human-based methods. This is not the case.

The outdated 3Rs policy, from 1959, maintains a false scientific practice by promoting three words beginning with the letter R: Reduction of animal numbers; Refinement of procedures to cause less animal suffering, and Replacement whenever possible, if there is an 'alternative' - which supports the now proven false notion that animal experiments have predictive value for humans.

### **Examples of the Real Human Harm and Fatalities, Caused by Applying the Results of Animal Data to Human Patients**

Penicillin stayed on the shelf for over a decade because the rabbits Fleming tested it on led him to believe it would be ineffective in humans.

100 HIV AIDS vaccines were tested in animals, including non-human primates : zero worked in humans.

Over 1,000 neuroprotective drugs worked well in animals, including non-human primates – again, zero worked in humans.

Scientists were misled about how HIV enters the human cell because of studies on monkeys.

The polio vaccine was delayed by decades because researchers using monkeys believed that the route of entry of the polio virus was via the respiratory system rather than the digestive system. The inventor of the polio vaccine, Dr. Albert Sabin, testified under oath in the US House of Representatives stating progress "was long delayed by the erroneous conception of the nature of the human disease based on misleading experimental models of the disease in monkeys." (19)

The cardiopulmonary bypass machine killed the first patients it was used on and it was only after human data was used that the machine was made safe.

Studying strokes and brain haemorrhage in animals has led to multiple medical treatments that worked in animals but that resulted in harm to human patients.

HIV vaccines that protected monkeys have actually increased the risk of contracting HIV in the volunteers that took the vaccine.

The flip side of all this is the fact that society has also lost cures and treatments because scientists believed the results from animals: the US-based National Cancer Institute has said that we have lost cures for cancer because studies in rodents have been believed. For more examples on the very real human harm and fatalities, caused by relying on veterinary principles for human patients, please visit [this page](#) at patient advocacy organisation, Patients Campaigning for Cures.

## SUMMING UP

The debate surrounding animal experiments will not go away until it is dealt with in a responsible and transparent manner. The main reason animal-based researchers have managed to pursue their careers for so long is because of a lack of any independent scientific audit of their work. It is entirely understandable that the general public, and most Members of Parliament, do not have the specialised science background necessary to challenge the validity of the claims made by animal-based researchers. So lobbyists from the outdated animal experimentation sector continue to hold sway over MPs, the public and our decision makers. As Members of Parliament, it is our duty to make sure policies match current scientific expertise.

## CONCLUSION

Animal experiments need to be banned quickly, so that funding can be redirected to human-based research, such as body-on-a chip and gene-based medicine, which comes with a track record of success.

The quickest way to ban animal experiments is to hold the public scientific hearing called for by EDM 175. (20) Many cross-party Members recognise this and have signed the EDM: it calls for the Government to mandate a rigorous public scientific hearing on claims that animals can predict the responses of humans. This hearing will be judged by a panel of *independent* experts from the relevant fields of science – including evolutionary biology, clinical research, drug development, philosophy of science, basic research and complexity science. The *independence* of these judges is vital: previous inquiries into animal testing have been overseen by many experts with a clear vested interest in animal experimentation and its outdated 3Rs.

The format for the EDM 175 science hearing follows the well-established process of peer review: an expert panel of independent scientists will judge two opposing position papers – one for, and one against, animal experiments. The hearing's format is endorsed as “well set out and fair” by foremost human-rights defence barrister, Michael Mansfield QC. More details on the hearing can be found in the book chapter 'How to Evaluate the Science of Non-Human Animal Use in Biomedical Research and Testing' (21); Dr. Jane Goodall outlines the hearing's format in her extraordinary YouTube presentation. (22)

For Life On Earth's recent Daily Mirror exposés, revealing, for the first time, the intensive breeding of - and experiments on - laboratory dogs in this country, were greeted with "shock" by the Home Secretary and our nation of animal lovers. This is especially significant in light of the forthcoming Animal Sentience Bill, which enshrines in law the ability of animals to experience joy, and feel suffering and pain.

It is time to hold the EDM 175 science hearing, so we can release the Government from the grip of their outdated advisors in the animal experimentation community. It is time to ban animal experiments with the EDM 175 science hearing so that funds can be redirected

towards human-based research - such as body-on-a-chip and gene-based medicine – which will accelerate the arrival of effective human treatments and cures, and quickly release dogs, and other animals, from their suffering in laboratories.

## References

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22. [Dr. Jane Goodall outlines the format for the EDM 175 science hearing](#).

## Resources

The Daily Mirror exposes with Ricky Gervais, Peter Egan and rescued laboratory dog Scarlett Beagle: [June 21<sup>st</sup>](#) and [September 27<sup>th</sup>](#) 2021  
[Americans and Europeans for Medical Advancement](#)

The science-based campaign [For Life On Earth](#)

Patient advocacy organisation [Patients Campaigning for Cures](#)

Ricky Gervais and Peter Egan's campaign with rescued laboratory dog, [Scarlett, Beagle Ambassador for FLOE](#)

[Parliament EDM 175](#)