

Creature comforts v. medical marvels

How do you feel about animal testing?

"I am dead set against it."



Charlene Walton

"I believe animals have rights too and have feelings just as much as people do."



Janeah Kelly

"It's different because they are comparing animals to humans. I mean, do the results even really apply to humans?"



Jeff Harrison

"I understand that animals have feelings but if it can be used to ease human suffering, I think it's good."



Jessica Thompson

"I feel it's OK to a certain extent, but it can be excessive. I agree with testing on animals if it is used to work on curing diseases."



Peter Gates

Alternatives to animal testing procedures show practice to be archaic and barbaric



Shannon Armstead
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

In a few cases, animal testing may be humane and scientifically beneficial, but it is too often carried out in a cruel and unnecessary manner. Consumers should be aware of the inconsistent

procedures that often occur in laboratory settings. While companies have restricted animal testing in recent years, many still use it, going through parent companies, contract testing laboratories or ingredient suppliers to employ animal testing without having to admit to it.

Cosmetic and household product companies test their products on animals in a variety of ways, including eye irritancy tests and acute toxicity tests.

In eye irritancy tests, a flake or granule of powdered substance is dropped into the eyes of a rabbit. Laboratory technicians record the damage to the eye tissue, with tests lasting seven to 18 days. Reactions include swollen eyelids, inflamed irises, ulceration, bleeding, massive deterioration and blindness. During the tests, the rabbit's eyelids are held open with clips. The results of eye irritancy tests are questionable, as they vary with each laboratory—and even with the subject.

During an acute toxicity test, a substance is forced by tube into the animals' stomachs or holes cut in their throats. It may also be injected under the skin, into a vein or into the lining of the abdomen. Experimenters observe the reactions, which can include convulsions, labored breathing, diarrhea, constipation, emaciation, skin eruptions, abnormal posture and bleeding from the eyes, nose or mouth.

Like eye irritant tests, lethal dosage tests are unreliable. "The scientific basis for animal tests is weak," said Michael Ball, a doctor with the European Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods.

However undependable, these tests can help companies put almost any product on the market and use the fact that their products were tested to escape possible lawsuits, even if test subjects were mistreated animals.

With reliability and humane treatment at stake, European lawmakers set a ban on animal testing for cosmetic companies to take place in 2009. The time was allotted because industry officials claim that there are no alternatives; however, alternatives are numerous and readily available.

According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), some cosmetic companies have taken advantage of these alternatives, including cell and tissue cultures, corneas from eye banks and sophisticated computer and mathematical models. Companies can also formulate products using ingredients already determined to be safe by the FDA.

While alternatives to animal testing are numerous and reliable, many companies still perform animal testing. They will continue to do so unless we become aware of the dangers we face by allowing companies to use cruel methods of animal testing to market products with inconclusive research.

Animal testing's benefits to human race vastly outweigh rights of less evolved critters



Sara Atkeson
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

In the past few years, animal rights protesters have destroyed test fields of genetically modified food, harassed scientists, raided labs, and in one case set off a car bomb. These terrorist

acts performed by groups within the animal rights movement are disgusting and hypocritical.

To want to put a stop to advances in medical science is stupid. Recently in the news there have been stories about the plans for a Parkinson's disease research center being canceled due to the high cost of security that would be needed. Those involved with the project have been quoted as saying, "We can't afford to build Fort Knox." What a victory for the animal rights movement.

What the animal rights people don't want the public to realize is that advances in science on which our society depends arose from animal experiments, such as antibiotics, water purification and sewage treatment.

The acceptance, if not encouragement, of animal rights groups like the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) seem to say that this behavior and attitude towards medical science is acceptable. Animal rights activists talk as if the suffering of people with diseases like Parkinson's doesn't outweigh the happiness of a lab rat.

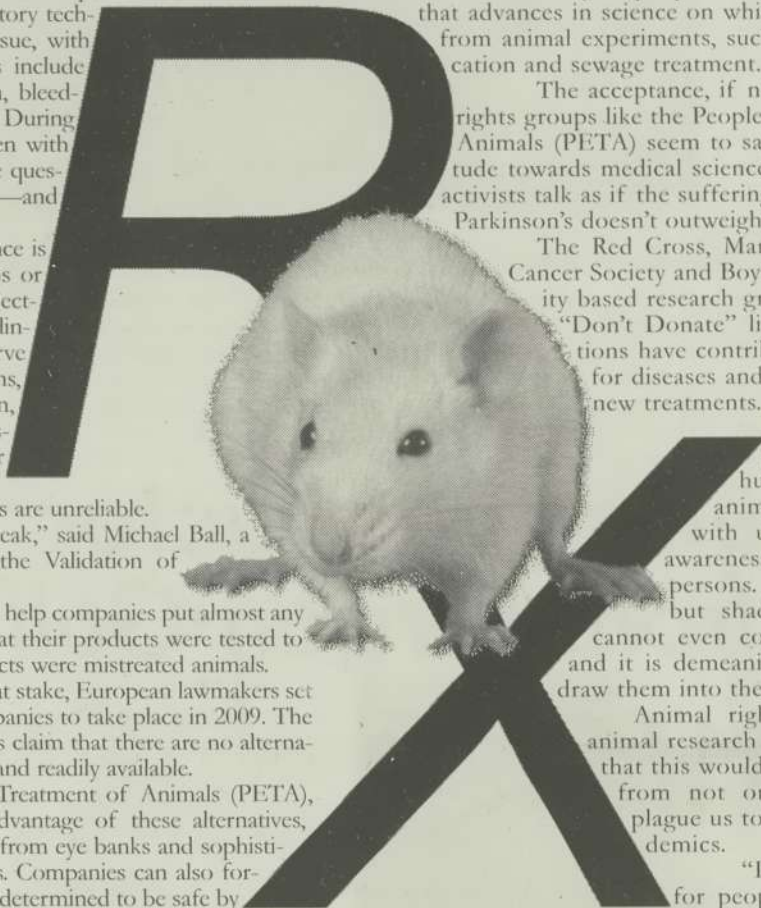
The Red Cross, March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society and Boys Town are some of the charity-based research groups that have made PETA's "Don't Donate" list. However, these organizations have contributed greatly in finding cures for diseases and easing human suffering with new treatments.

Some would draw connections from animals to humans by pointing out these animals share certain qualities with us like autonomy and self-awareness, but animals are not little persons. The abilities they show are but shadows of our own. Animals cannot even come close to us intellectually and it is demeaning to both species to try to draw them into the human family.

Animal rights activists would have all animal research stop today, knowing full well that this would cause great human suffering from not only the many diseases that plague us today but also from future epidemics.

"It is completely unacceptable for people to try and destroy legitimate research on which these issues will ultimately be judged. It is time to speak up for science," said Prime Minister Tony Blair in an interview with the London Times.

It is time to speak up for science. It is a sad day in our society when human suffering is deemed less worthy than extremist moral ideas.



Buffets: the feeding trough of the middle class



Cory Price
Co Editor-in-Chief

too soon.

Why would a buffet permit such corruption? Humans are drawn to mashed potatoes like flies to electric bug zappers. It's for the money, of course. Yet they are charging a hefty sum of money already for a low-quality meal. For example, the average buffet in Las Vegas is between \$10 and \$20.

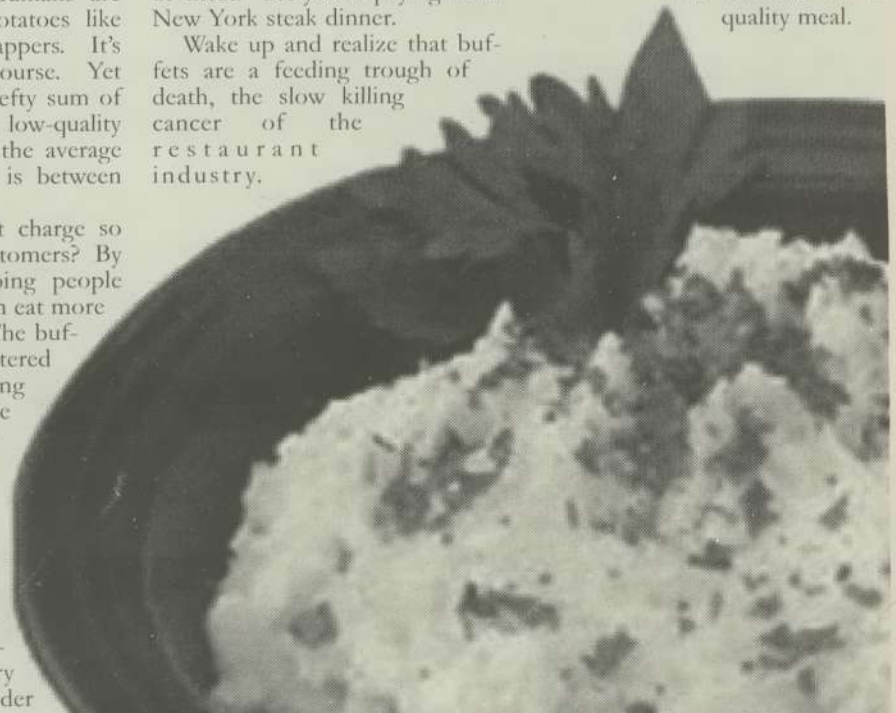
How can a buffet charge so much and still get customers? By psychologically trapping people into believing they can eat more than they pay for. The buffet people have mastered the art of screwing everyone; they've boiled it down to a science.

At regular restaurants, you get a nice 1:1 ratio of meat to carbohydrates. At buffets, though, the ratio jumps to 1:10. There are 10 high-carb dishes for every meat item. Ever wonder why? Because buying

mountains of rice, potatoes and bread is cheaper than buying slabs of meat. Yet you're paying for a New York steak dinner.

Wake up and realize that buffets are a feeding trough of death, the slow killing cancer of the restaurant industry.

Despite their ever-growing popularity, buffets are dragging down the standard for a quality meal.



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