

**2012 PSBR High School Essay Contest
Finalist**

Chrissy G.
Norwin High School
North Huntingdon, PA

When asked the question “Should animals be used in biomedical research?” I had conflicting emotions. When choosing a side I considered the following questions: “Is the use of animals in biomedical research justified?”, “Is it beneficial?”, and “How are the laboratory animals treated?” In the end, I chose to be for the use of animals in biomedical research. After doing some research, I concluded that the use of animals is justified and it is very beneficial and that the laboratory animals are treated with care. I hope that after hearing what I have to say, you will be for the use of animals in biomedical research as well.

The use of animals in biomedical research is justified. They use the animals for all the right reasons. Firstly, the animals used in this research have a similar make up to humans. This often makes those animals able to contract the same types of diseases as humans. This means that the data obtained from testing laboratory animals can directly help humans. Next, without testing animals, humans would not have made as many medical advancements. Without animal testing, a lot of the vaccines that exist today would not have been developed or thoroughly tested. Finally, the use of animals in biomedical research saves many lives. Millions of people all over the world are disease-free due to vaccines that have been made possible by using animals in research. The justification of the use of animals in biomedical research is one reason why I am for the use of animals in biomedical research.

Secondly, using animals in biomedical research is very beneficial. It is beneficial to animals as well as humans. First, dogs were very important in researching diabetes. Using dogs in research helped scientists indentify the causes of diabetes and subsequently has led to the development of insulin, which helps many humans and animals with diabetes. Next, researching animals has also helped identify the causes of many other diseases such as high blood pressure and circulatory disease as well as ways to treat these diseases. Treatments for problems such as strokes and heart attacks have been developed through the help of animal testing. These treatments have helped save thousands of human lives. Finally, vaccines for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and feline leukemia virus (FeLV), two of main causes of deaths in cats, have been developed. That is how using animal in biomedical research is beneficial to both humans and animals.

Finally, animals used in biomedical research are treated well. Whenever I mentioned the use of animals in biomedical research to my family they all said “how cruel,” but they don’t know what really goes on. First of all, the laboratory animals are given living area with toys to play with and food to eat. They only spend a short period of time each day in testing. Next, whenever the animals are operated on they are given painkillers to limit any distress. The animals are rarely ever, almost never, harmed or mistreated in experiments. Finally, scientists always use the minimal number of animals needed to get good research results. They also replace the use of animals with computer simulations and models. That is another reason why I am for the use of animals in biomedical research.

In conclusion, the use of animals in biomedical research is justified, beneficial, and the laboratory animals are treated well. After researching this topic, I have started to see animals as more than just what they appear. There are animals just like them who are in testing right this moment helping to develop new cures for many diseases. Regular animals become heroes by undergoing many tests for the sake of humans and their fellow animals. Without even knowing it, those animals save thousands maybe even millions of lives. That is why I am for the use of animals in biomedical research and you should be too.

Works Consulted

"HIV Drugs, Vaccines and Animal Testing." *Averting HIV and AIDS*. AVERT. Web. 5 Feb. 2012.

"Laboratory Animal Care." *Pharmaceutical Company*. Pfizer Inc. Web. 5 Feb. 2012.

"Research Using Animals." *University of Oxford*. 28 Nov. 2011. Web. 5 Feb. 2012.

"Statement for the Use of Animals in Ophthalmic and Visual Research." *The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology*. 2012. Web. 5 Feb. 2012.

"Use of Animals in Biomedical Research: Understanding the Issue." *American Association For Laboratory Animal Science*. Web. 5 Feb. 2012.

Vane, John. "Animal Research and Medical Progress." *AnimalResearch.info*. Web. 5 Feb. 2012.

"Why Are Animals Necessary in Biomedical Research." *California Biomedical Research Association*. Web. 5 Feb. 2012.