

Association for the Abolition of Animal Experiments

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Man as a victim of animal experimentation:

Chemical products

Worldwide, human fertility is decreasing drastically, and many species of animals are threatened by extinction because they are infertile or their embryos are malformed. That this is due to animal experimentation is never mentioned by the chemical industry, the regulatory authorities or the media.

Concerning chemical products, the Association *Research for Life* in Zurich, Switzerland, writes: «Animal tests are essential for demonstrating the safety of chemicals which could harm humans, animals and the environment. In order to test the effects of chemicals, experiments are performed on mice and rats. Only in this way is it possible to establish safety limits for chemicals and to prevent dangerous products from coming onto the market.» Is this true?

- In the last several decades, human fertility has decreased drastically, leaving a growing number of couples childless. Worldwide, men now produce 50% fewer sperm than in 1940, and the number of dead and deformed sperm in the seminal fluid is increasing steadily. The incidence of testicular cancer has more than quintupled, that of breast cancer in women nearly tripled, and the number of malformations in newborn children is rising rapidly. In addition, many species of animals such as whales, dolphins, otters, eagles, alligators and frogs are threatened by extinction because they are infertile or their embryos are malformed.

- The most likely cause of these phenomena: the multitude of agricultural and industrial chemicals such as DDT, PCB and dioxin, which have come onto the market since the 1940s, entered the food chain and contaminated humans, animals and the environment. As prescribed by law, all of these chemicals were first **tested on animals** for their safety and harmlessness. In humans, animals and the environment, however, they have caused grave illnesses and death. This is hardly surprising: Due to fundamental differences between species and their metabolisms, animals react differently from humans to chemicals. Moreover, animal experiments are performed under artificial laboratory conditions which do not correspond to the complex characteristics of the human body or the natural environment.

- Instead of banning or drastically reducing the production and use of agricultural and industrial chemicals and abandoning the completely unreliable animal tests, the chemical companies, regulatory authorities and even certain environmental protection organizations have been attempting for the last several years to «study» this global threat by means of **additional animal experiments**. At present, hundreds of «research projects» are underway worldwide to examine the harmful effects of chemical products in animal experiments. Animal experiments therefore do not serve to protect humans, animals and the environment, but only the interests of the chemical industry: First, dangerous chemicals are brought onto the market after having been found safe and harmless in animal tests, and then these chemicals are not withdrawn from the market under the pretext that their harmful effects have to be further «studied» on animals.