

# Medicines need to be tested on animals.

## Fact or fiction?

### Fiction:

Medicines need to be tested on animals.

### Fact:

Animal tests are dangerous and misleading because of the fundamental differences between species and their metabolisms: Morphine sedates people but stimulates cats. Penicillin cures infections in people but kills hamsters and guinea pigs. Aspirin causes birth defects in mice and rats but not in people, while thalidomide causes birth defects in people but not in mice or rats.

Animal tests are performed not to ensure the safety of medicines, but rather to free the pharmaceutical companies from legal accountability when adverse drug reactions in people lead to death or disability.

### Fiction:

Medicines are safe, thanks to animal testing.

### Fact:

Despite extensive animal testing, adverse drug reactions are the fifth leading cause of death in the United States, killing more than 100,000 patients every year.

### Fiction:

Using animals is the correct way to test medicines.

### Fact:

Animals and people react differently to medicines. Human cell, tissue and organ cultures, computer and mathematical models, as well as careful studies on patients are the safe, reliable methods for testing medicines – because they are of direct relevance to people.

**Increasing numbers of doctors and scientists worldwide are demanding the abolition of animal experiments in the interest of both human health and true science.**

**Association for the Abolition of Animal Experiments**  
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