

Association for the Abolition of Animal Experiments

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Man as a victim of animal experimentation:

Adverse drug reactions

In the United States, adverse drug reactions kill approximately 130,000 patients every year, which corresponds to the fifth leading cause of death in the United States. That this is due to animal testing is never mentioned by the pharmaceutical industry, the regulatory authorities or the media.

Concerning drug safety, *Interpharma, Association of Swiss Pharmaceutical Firms Practicing Research*, in Basle writes: «At present, testing drugs without animals is unthinkable. Animal tests are essential for guaranteeing the efficacy and safety of drugs.» Is this true?

▶ According to the U.S. *Food and Drug Administration (FDA)*, a staggering 92% of all drugs found to be safe and therapeutically effective in animal tests fail during human clinical trials due to their toxicity and/or inefficacy, and are therefore not approved. Furthermore, more than half of the mere 8% of drugs which do gain *FDA* approval must later be withdrawn or relabeled due to severe, unexpected side effects. This corresponds to an overall failure rate of more than 96%.

▶ According to the U.S. *Institute for Safe Medication Practices*, 2-4 million patients suffer severe adverse drug reactions in the United States every year. In addition, adverse drug reactions kill approximately 130,000 patients every year, which corresponds to the fifth leading cause of death in the United States. According to the *EU Commission of the European Communities*, adverse drug reactions are also the fifth leading cause of death in the European Union, where they account for approximately 200,000 deaths every year.

▶ As prescribed by law, all of these drugs were first tested on animals for their efficacy and safety. In humans, however, they caused severe suffering and death. This is hardly surprising: Due to fundamental differences between species and their metabolisms, animals react differently to drugs than humans. Furthermore, animal experiments are performed under artificial laboratory conditions which do not correspond to the complex characteristics of the human body.

▶ Animal experiments therefore allow no safe, reliable conclusions when extrapolated to humans and in reality serve merely as an alibi: In cases of death or disability caused by adverse drug reactions, the responsible pharmaceutical firms indicate that they performed the legally prescribed «safety tests» on animals and are therefore not liable. This is why the victims or their families mostly come away empty-handed after suing for damages.