The use of animals in research and testing

Around the world it is estimated +100 million animals are used in experiments every year.

- **Australia**: c.6.7m
- **Japan**: c.11m
- **China**: c.16m
- **Canada**: 2.9m
- **European Union**: 11.5m
- **America**: c.20m
- **New Zealand**: 0.24m

Attitudes towards animals, and the legislation in place regarding their use and welfare, can differ widely between countries.

Countries vary in whether, and how, they count and report animal experiments. Some significant users (e.g. Russia, India, Brazil) provide little or no information.

The majority of GA animals are mice and zebrafish.

- **Rat**
- **Cattle**
- **Cat**
- **Ferret**
- **Chicken**
- **Frog**
- **Beagle**
- **Guineapig**
- **Macaque**
- **Mouse**
- **Pig**
- **Rabbit**
- **Marmoset**
- **Zebrafish**
- **Sheep**

The creation and breeding of genetically altered animals makes up 50% of procedures. Experiments account for the other 50%.

The majority of GA animals are mice and zebrafish.

Percentage of animal research and testing undertaken in the UK

- **Universities and medical schools**: 49%
- **Industry**: 25%
- **Other**: 26%

3 Rs and ethics

- **Replacement**: using humane methods which avoid or replace the use of animals
- **Reduction**: minimising the numbers of animals used
- **Refinement**: improving experiments, housing and care to reduce suffering throughout animals' lives

Each project proposal must undergo a harm-benefit analysis.

The RSPCA is opposed to experiments which cause pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm. Replacement with humane alternatives is our principal goal, and we also work to minimise animal numbers and suffering and improve welfare. See: www.rspca.org.uk/laboratoryanimals

Source for UK data: Home Office

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