

The Faces Behind the Statistics

Did you know that over 6 million animals are used for research and teaching in Australia every year?

Although often hidden behind figures, missing due to discrepancies, or lost within inconsistent reporting requirements, this bulletin provides a rare opportunity to see some of the 'faces behind the statistics'.

Veronica Lake

Veronica was surrendered to the RSPCA, who were unable to provide any further information about her background other than that "she had been used for research and was in a bad state". When she first arrived at Hogwatch Animal Sanctuary, Veronica was completely overwhelmed by her newfound freedom. Her last days were lived out at Hogwatch, and were filled with love and companionship.

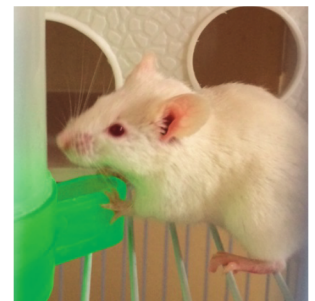


Poppy and Alvin

Poppy and Alvin were surrendered to Beagle Freedom Australia after being used to study topical skin treatments. At first overweight, rife with skin problems, and fearful of human touch, Poppy and Alvin are now recovering, and have even learnt to wag their tails happily.

Charliemouse

Charliemouse started his life alone in a cage, locked in an Australian laboratory where he was used to test medical products. At only 2 months of age he was fortunate enough to be rescued, but having never previously interacted with other mice, he fought when first introduced to other males. After much love and care he is now safe and happy in his forever home.

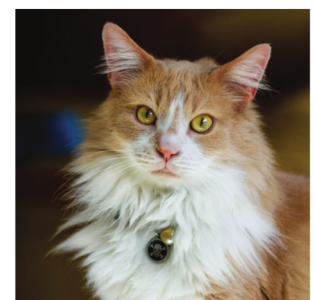


Latrobe Sheep

The 'Latrobe sheep' were used in nutritional studies where they were confined within a shed with very restricted movement and limited social contact. A grated floor was their only bedding material and no direct exposure to sunlight was available. They were to be killed at the conclusion of the study, but, thanks to the persistence of many, they are happily living out their days with others at Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary.

Leo

Leo spent many years in a laboratory undergoing eye experiments and vaccination research. When the facility where he was used ran out of funding he was surrendered to a rescue group. His foster carers were so taken by his character and personality that they were unable to give him up, and instead have provided him with a permanent loving home.



Sadly, the overwhelming majority of animals used in research do not have a happy ending and are killed at the conclusion of their "use". Every one of them is an individual like those above, who should never have been forced to endure such unethical and unnecessary experimentation.

The Problem with Statistics

Humane Research Australia (HRA) works to ensure that animal experiments, such as those that Leo, Veronika Lake, Charliemouse, Poppy and Alvin, and the Latrobe Lambs were subjected to, are continually under scrutiny in Australia. Part of our work in this area involves collating annual national statistics on animals used in research and teaching.

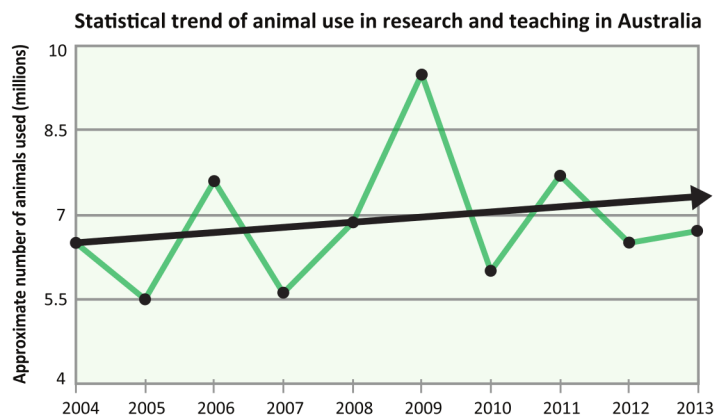
Inadequacy of the current system

The current statistics reporting system in Australia is state- and territory -based. This system is inadequate for a number of reasons:

- Only three states regularly collect and make the statistics publicly available - VIC, NSW and TAS
- There is significant inconsistency between states/territories due to variable reporting methods
- There is no standardised format for the collection or reporting of statistics

Due to the difficulty in obtaining statistics, and discrepancies in data provided, it is difficult to create an accurate picture of the national use of animals in research and teaching. Hence, HRA's figures usually represent very conservative numbers of total animal use.

Using the latest available statistics, the chart to the right shows an upward trend in the total number of animals used in research and teaching in Australia over the past ten years.



What needs to change

There is a critical need to set up a national framework for the collection and collation of national statistics of animals used in research.

Australia has a responsibility to follow the example of other jurisdictions, such as Canada, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and New Zealand, and set up an annual national animal use report system. It is essential that we have a nationally consistent and reliable procedure for reporting and publishing annual statistics on animal use - particularly in order to facilitate transparency and accountability and to allow open and honest debate.

If no statistics are being made available, what are they hiding?

Animals should NOT suffer when there are more efficient methods. We need your help!

Visit www.humanerresearch.org.au today to donate or become a member and help us continue the fight to end cruel and ineffective animal experiments and promote a better future - for both animals and for human medical progress!

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