

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Humane Charities do NOT fund animal experiments**

As the Ice Bucket Challenge has taken the world by storm, Humane Research Australia congratulates Pamela Anderson for alerting people to what they are actually supporting – cruel and unnecessary animal experiments.

**Humane Research Australia CEO, Helen Marston**: "People mean well when they donate to health charities, but many are unaware that they may inadvertently be supporting cruel and unnecessary animal experiments."

"With growing awareness of the dangers of reliance on data from animal tests, the public should be able to make an informed choice as to how their generous donations are really being spent."

<u>www.humanecharities.org.au</u> - The Humane Charities List is an online listing of health-related charities that do not fund nor engage in animal-based research. This is the only reference guide of its kind in Australia.

The charities featured on our list are not necessarily opposed to animal research; rather, they do not engage in it themselves, and have no future intention of doing so. They are diverse in the health-related aspects they provide, but all share a vision for improved human health and well-being.

HRA recently surveyed the Australian public and just 13% of respondents said they would donate to a charity known to fund animal research. Additionally, nearly 81% of survey respondents believe the number of animals used in research is too high, with over 70% of those surveyed supporting the development of alternatives.

These results reflect trends seen in the USA and the UK, and in response to these growing international trends, the Australian Humane Charities List provides an easy and meaningful solution for thoughtful donors by empowering them to identify and donate to charities that do not fund animal experiments - thereby ensuring that their gift will contribute to human-specific benefits, whilst sparing animals from pain and suffering.

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