

Is it ethical to use animals in medical research?

The ethics concerning use of animals in medical research are rooted in the belief that this inhumane, immoral testing inflicts pain and violence on the voiceless and defenseless. Such testing violates the animal rights granted by the constitution. This medical practice disregards every animal's life used in this medical research that may eventually prove to be unreliable due to species differences. The twenty first century prides itself on technological advancements, it has yet to devise mechanisms for conducting research that do not involve harming animals and that align with the ethics of science.

Animals in medical research undergo procedures that cause physical and mental distress and in extreme cases, resulting in death. Research includes the animals being exposed to harmful chemicals with lethal doses, forced to go through surgery, compelled to try vaccinations, which could result in rashes, burns, triggering of unknown allergies leading to extreme agony and eventually death. Animals are confined to labs, cages, or trailers, kept in isolation to prevent cross-contamination of acids or chemicals. Depriving animals of their natural habitat, forcing them to survive without interaction in dark dingy environment can have severe psychological impact on an animal's health, violating the ethics of scientific practices.

Article 14 of the Indian constitution, which guarantees right to equality, is applicable to not only humans but all natural persons including animals. Right to equality had been incorporated into the constitution with the purpose to remove unreasonable discrimination and arbitrary actions taken against those unable to provide consent. Similarly, Article 21, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, encompasses animals and provides them with the right to live a life of dignity and respect. Just as humans are protected from exploitation, animals also deserve legal protection from medical institutions that exploit their fragile state.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA) was a legal judgement introduced by the government to prevent the inhumane torture inflicted by humans on animals. The Animal Welfare Board, established under the PCAA, that ensures animal protection laws being set in place along with the creation of pet shelters and rescue organizations that can take care of the animals who have been subjected to this brutality.

The recognition of the laws, reflects a changing society, that prioritizes the protection of species beyond its own. NGO's and scientific bases with the help of artificial intelligence are researching for painless procedures that can be incorporated into medical research.