

# Animal Testing

and the morals of animal

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cartoon by jackson van meter

A dark, musty room that's cold and full of cages with animals screaming and jumping around rattling their gates, and a scientist with an abnormally large needle and an evil look injecting something into a little monkey under a bright spotlight. This scenario is what many people visualize when thinking of animal testing, a horror scene popularized by media and assumed by sympathetic people who don't want any harm to come to animals. Others think of careful research and humane tests from scientists and researchers who really care for the animals they are using and completing the tests for the greater good.

This question of animal testing and animal rights has been an issue for a long time, and has become a more prominent issue recently as testing on animals has reached a larger scale. There are two very strong sides on the issue of how animals should be treated whether concerning hunting, farm animals, lab tests, and even pets; however, there is a grey area between that is based on morals.

The treatment of animals is based on sympathy and morals. Animal rights is less of a question about how animals are protected legally but

rather if humans will agree to behave morally around them because most people possess the ability to know right from wrong, and causing unnecessary pain is obviously wrong. The main push back against using animals for testing is when the tests involve suffering which leads one side to say this negative testing needs to be dropped all together and alternatives found, while another side believe, it is better for a few animals to suffer than for people to suffer from a lack of the helpful benefits that come from testing.

"I think it is wrong to test on animals," Junior Christian Welander said. "In today's advanced society there are bound to be better ways than harming innocent animals in harsh experiments."

The labs where animals are tested are not completely lawless. There are many laws concerning the treatment of animals from pets to test subjects but none can completely stop unethical treatment except for those doing the treatment. Marks McWhorter, SA science department chair and someone who has spent a lot of time devoted to animals, says that there are more than just laws protecting these lab animals