the noisy classroom

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# This House Would Ban Scientific Testing on Animals

**Fact:** Animal testing is widespread. Every year, more than 100 million vertebrates are used in scientific testing.

**Fact:** Animals have been used by some armies to test the effectiveness of weapons.

**Fact:** Most animals are killed after being used in an experiment, as they are often very sick, or at least at risk of serious health problems.

**Fact:** The main uses of animals in scientific testing are to check the safety of medicines, cosmetic products, foodstuffs and in biological and chemical studies.

**Fact:** Most of the animals are bred specially for the purpose of scientific testing, but there is also a large trade, especially in monkeys, in those captured in the wild.

- Do animals have rights at all? If we kill them for meat, is there any reason not to test on them for science?
- Even if animal rights exist, is developing safe drugs for humans more important?
- Do we need animal testing? Would it be possible to simulate the tests with computers?
- If we get rid of animal testing, will the amount of dangerous human testing have to increase?
- Is testing on humans worse than animal testing? Will the poor or the sick now have to be used as human guinea-pigs, in place of actual guinea-pigs?
- Are all the products tested on animals really essential?
- What about cosmetic products and other products that aren't necessary for health reasons?
- If you had a choice between a relative dying from lack of drugs and an animal dying from testing, would you really let the animal live? Is this debate different?
- Are less drastic measures possible? Could we just regulate the industry better, or is an outright ban necessary?