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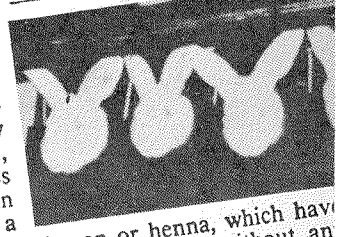
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Going back to a crueler future?

A European Commission proposal which could increase the need for animal testing of cosmetic ingredients is causing concern among industry representatives determined to end the practice. The proposal, to be discussed today by the European Community, will force cosmetic companies to provide an inventory of all cosmetic ingredients and detailed assessments to support their continued use.

Marion Kelly, director-general of the Cosmetic Toiletry and Perfumery Association, which represents companies selling cosmetic products in the UK, is spearheading a campaign against it. She says it will be a "cosmetic solution

A proposal being debated today by the EC may lead to more animal testing of cosmetics



lemon or henna, which have long been used without any test data

Back to the torture

BRUSSELS BUREAUCRATS IGNORE THE SUFFERING

B RITISH cosmetics firms will be forced to kill thousands of animals if stringent new EEC safety laws get the go-ahead.

The massacre, in the name of consumer protection, will wipe out at a stroke major concessions won from the industry by the Daily Mirror Campaign Against Cosmetic Testing. Throughout Europe, more than 400,000 animals will perish.

At the moment, only 500 or so of the 6,000 substances available to the cosmetics industry have received the EEC Scientific Committee's official stamp of approval.

Under the proposed legislation, to be introduced in January 1993, every ingredient will have to be backed by a dossier proving it is safe for human use.

This will mean a vast upsurge in testing - and in suffering and death for animals used in the laboratory experiments.

Terror in store for animals as tests set to return



In the Draize test, the substance to be tested is dripped into the eye of the animal - usually a rabbit - to see what kind of damage it causes. The rabbit is chosen because it cannot blink away the test substance. The test often leaves it blind.

Testing. The campaign, waged in 1988 and 1989, notched

Photo: BLUJ wishes how toxic it is to humans. In Britain, the law governing the safety of cosmetics does not call for animal tests. Some companies have put millions of pounds into alternatives, which, under any new EEC legislation, may no longer be accepted as valid.

Cosmetic producers such as Beauty Without Cruelty and the Body Shop could be faced with no other choice than to have their products tested by the methods they abhor.

Labour MEP Carole Tongue, who is among those leading the fight to save animals from a new onslaught, says: "Animal tests should be on the way out, not on the way in."

"But, unfortunately, too many bureaucrats in Brussels are blind to the suffering involved."

Photo: BLUJ ing on Home Secretary Douglas Hurd to ban cosmetic tests. Hurd has said he will not ban such experiments.

In the LD50 test (Lethal Dose test), a number of animals are force-fed the test substance by tube. The object is to establish the single dose that will kill 50 per cent of the animals used in the experiment.

Photo: BLUJ the substance to be tested is dripped into the eye of the animal - usually a rabbit - to see what kind of damage it causes. The test