



ARK
ANIMAL REFUGE KANSAI
JAWS NOSE BRANCH

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Dear Editor,

I would like to thank [REDACTED] for drawing our attention to the appalling abuse of animals in experiments. As she points out, many of these are repetitive, unnecessary and could easily be replaced by alternative tests. Alternatives include; mathematical and computer modelling, microorganisms, cell/tissue/organ culture, human studies.

Tests by the cosmetic industry have no justification whatsoever. Is it so important to beautify ourselves through the torture of millions of animals? Two of the most odious are:

The Draize Test where rabbits are deliberately and agonizingly blinded (rabbits having no effective tear duct to wash away foreign substances from their eyes)

Lethal Dosage 50 (LD 50) a standard test for toxicity to determine the dosage level at which 50% of the animals will die.

Instead of lamely saying "There's not much we can do to stop it," we can effectively use our powers as consumers to boycott companies that continue to use animals in experiments and buy instead from those selling beauty-without-cruelty, products not tested on animals.

She mentions however that animal refuge centres sell dogs and cats for experiments. This I find hard to believe as we are working for just the opposite, to rescue animals from this fate. She might be thinking of pet shops in this country which I suspect sell surplus stock for experiments or the hokensho which is the public body responsible for sweeping up the surplus stray animal population and destroying it. (See my May 1990 article on Morinomiya).

I now have official confirmation from Osaka Prefecture hokensho that in fact 30% of dogs (over 6000 annually) and 10,000 puppies go directly from Morinomiya hokensho to hospitals for experiments. Not only do they suffer the trauma of being snared and transported in miserable airless trucks, then held in concentration-camp conditions at the hokensho, they are then further tortured by 'doctors' in an array of experiments until they die.

I also suspect that the hokensho employees who transport the animals pocket a nice little income by selling off these strays to individual doctors BEFORE they reach the hokensho proper - making these statistics even worse than they appear.

I endeavour to find good homes for the many animals that come to ARK, carefully scrutinizing prospective owners, keeping a record of where the animals go and checking afterwards to see they are alright. If I have any doubts about someone, I never allow them to take an animal home.

Elizabeth Olivier