Throughout history, scientists have been solving medical problems, developing new techniques and treatments, and curing diseases –

all by using animals

in biomedical research.

Most of our children have not even heard of, much less know anything about, many of the diseases our ancestors experienced first-hand. Why? They have either been eradicated or can be controlled due to findings from research using animals.

Life-saving surgical procedures;
Cancer therapies;
Organ transplantation;
Vaccines;
Safe consumer products; and

Treatments and cures for countless other medical disorders and diseases.

"Virtually every major medical advance for both humans and animals has been achieved through biomedical research using animal models to study and find a cure for a disease and through animal testing to prove the safety and efficacy of a new treatment."

C. Everett Koop, M.D

Former U.S. Surgeon General

organisms and body systems similar to humans and other animals;
susceptible to the same diseases that affect humans;
short life span allows animals to be studied throughout their entire life;
environment easily controllable to keep experimental variables to a minimum;

The Importance of
Animals in Biomedical Research

Laboratory mice are used in research more often than any other animal species;
These mice, plus other rodents such as rats and hamsters, make up more than 90% of the total number of animals used; and
Other animal species, including dogs, cats, rabbits, farm animals, fish, frogs, birds, nonhuman primates, and many others, make up the remaining 10% of animals used in research.

The Importance of
Animals in Biomedical Research

following literature searches and comparison of data to previous research;
following computer model simulations and cell and/or tissue culture research;
following an IACUC-approved animal use protocol;
following extensive training and education on the handling, care, and use of animals;
but, before HUMAN clinical testing.

The Importance of
Animals in Biomedical Research

Research institutions;
Scientists and their research staff;
Veterinarians, laboratory animal technicians, cagewashers, and other animal care personnel;
Federal and local government agencies;
Scientific organizations; and most of all,

Patients

The Importance of
Animals in Biomedical Research
allergies, arthritis, birth defects, cancer, tuberculosis, asthma, epilepsy, heart disease, kidney disease, Lyme disease, ulcers, measles, influenza, hypertension

The Importance of Animals in Biomedical Research

How can we learn from medical research using animals and help humans?

How can we be sure that lost or stolen pets are not used in research?

The Importance of Animals in Biomedical Research

Why do veterinarians, who are supposed to take care of sick animals, work with researchers who do experiments on them?

Aren’t the animals in laboratories suffering and in pain?

The Importance of Animals in Biomedical Research

Why is it important to conduct product safety tests on animals when “cruelty-free” products are available?

What happens to animals once an experiment is completed?

The Importance of Animals in Biomedical Research

Why are increasing numbers of animals sacrificed for research, especially for repetitive experiments?

Why can’t alternatives such as computer models and cell and tissue cultures replace animals in medical research?

The Importance of Animals in Biomedical Research

Do we really have the right to experiment on animals? What about their rights?

Don’t people choose careers in medical research using animals because it is an easy way to receive funding dollars and make high salaries?

The Importance of Animals in Biomedical Research

With the knowledge gained through research on animals, we can continue improving the lives of not only humans, but our pets, wildlife, and other animals.