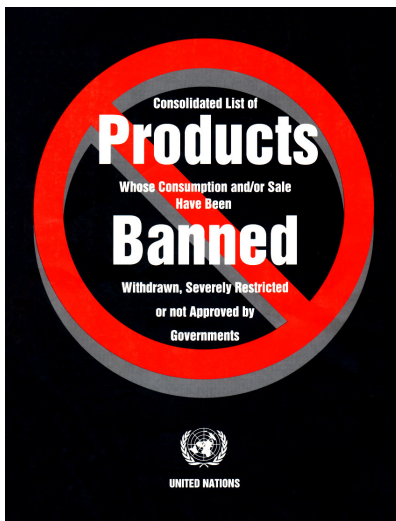


Association for the Abolition of Animal Experiments

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The myth of animal experimentation: **Product safety**

All were tested on animals as prescribed by law: «Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments»

Concerning product safety, the *Committee for Health and Research* in Zurich, Switzerland, writes: «Animal experiments ensure the preservation of our health and the protection of humans, animals and the environment. Every product and every substance have to be tested on animals to assure their safety and harmlessness. In this respect, it makes no difference if these substances are used in medicines or in chemicals.» Is this true?

● The *United Nations*, in cooperation with the *World Health Organization*, publishes a 1500-page catalog with the title «Products Banned» in which a limited selection of over 1100 pharmaceutical, agricultural, industrial and consumer products are listed which have been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or not approved by 115 governments during the last 50 years due to their harmful or lethal effects on humans. Some of these products have caused 10,000 to 30,000 cases of illness or death.

● According to the medical literature, more than 2 million hospital patients in the United States suffer severe adverse drug reactions every year. In addition, adverse drug reactions kill more than 100,000 patients every year, which corresponds to the fifth leading cause of death in the United States. In Switzerland, about 40,000 patients suffer severe adverse drug reactions every year, of whom 500-1000 die as a result. These numbers are too low, however, since many adverse drug reactions are not reported or even recognized as such. Furthermore, cases of death and disability caused by adverse drug reactions are not counted in any official statistic in the United States or Switzerland.

● As prescribed by law, all of these products were first **tested on animals** for their safety and harmlessness. In humans, animals and the environment, however, they caused severe suffering and death. This is hardly surprising: Due to fundamental differences between species and their metabolisms, animals react differently to substances than humans. Furthermore, animal experiments are performed under artificial laboratory conditions which do not correspond to the complex characteristics of the human body or of the natural environment.

● Animal experiments therefore allow no safe, reliable conclusions when extrapolated to humans and in reality serve merely as an **alibi**: In cases of death or disability caused by chemical products or adverse drug reactions, the responsible chemical and pharmaceutical firms indicate that they performed the legally prescribed «safety tests» on animals and are therefore not accountable. This is why the victims or their families most often come away empty-handed after suing for damages.