

Animal Testing

After ten years of discussion and debate, the European parliament recently voted to **ban** the use of animal testing for **cosmetic** products. The act was passed with a huge majority. The ban is set to take effect by 2009.

Currently, in the European Union approximately 38,000 animals are used to test the **toxicity** in new cosmetic products each year. The large majority of cosmetic products are tested on animals before reaching the market. Products include toothpaste, shampoo, make-up, hair dye, and nail polish and many more.

There are many different types of **experiments** conducted on animals to test the **benefits** and **risks** of cosmetic products. Some of these tests include:

- Skin penetration

The skin penetration tests are used to determine how deep cosmetic ingredients might **penetrate** the skin.

- Eye irritation

In this test, **substances** are dropped into the eyes of albino rabbits, to determine how **irritating** they may be.

- Skin irritation

A substance is smeared over the shaved back of a group of animals, usually rabbits or guinea pigs.

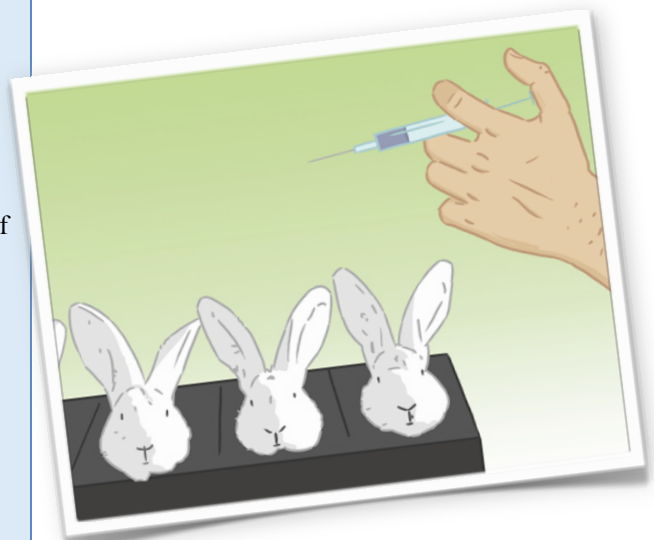
- Oral toxicity

Animals are force fed a substance once or repeatedly to determine the toxic effects.

Though there has been great concern over the use of animals to test cosmetics, many feel it is the most effective way to protect the consumers who use them. The cosmetic industry insists that animal testing is the best way by far to test for cancer-causing and allergy-causing chemicals. The industry also feels that it is involved not only in the development of vanity products, but also health products such as toothpaste and sunscreen.

Pre-Reading Warm Up Questions ☀

1. Do you use cosmetic products on a regular basis?
2. Do you feel the cosmetic products you use are safe?
3. Do you know how cosmetic products are tested before they reach the market?
4. Do you know how many animals are used to test cosmetics each year in the European Union?



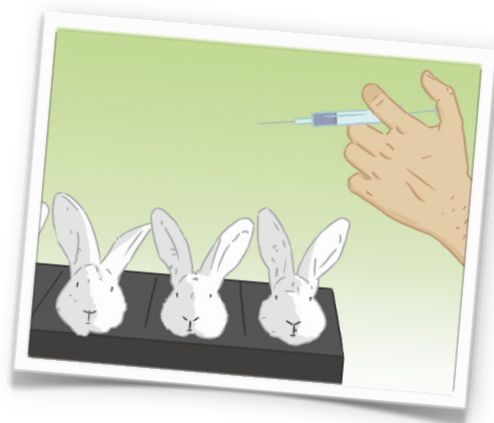
COMPREHENSION 📖

1. What did the European parliament recently vote to do?
2. Roughly how many animals are used each year to test new cosmetics in the EU?
3. When is the ban on animal testing set to start?
4. Why does the cosmetic industry feel that testing on animals is important?

VOCABULARY REVIEW

A. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. ban | a. matter, material |
| _____ 2. cosmetics | b. advantages, assets |
| _____ 3. toxicity | c. dangers |
| _____ 4. experiments | d. the degree to which something is poisonous |
| _____ 5. substances | e. entering into or through something |
| _____ 6. benefits | f. products used to beautify the body |
| _____ 7. risks | g. to cause pain or annoyance |
| _____ 8. penetration | h. to disallow, make illegal |
| _____ 9. irritate | i. observations or tests |



B. Choose the right word(s) from the left column above to complete the following sentences.

1. Recently many cities have decided to _____ smoking in restaurants and bars.
2. There are many _____ in eating healthy foods.
3. She got sunscreen in her eye. It's starting to _____ her.
4. The pharmaceutical industry conducts a lot of _____ before releasing a new drug.

DEBATE IT

Below are two topics to debate in small groups or pairs. Your teacher will tell you if you will be debating for or against the idea. You will have ten minutes to prepare your arguments.

Topic #1:

Cosmetic companies should have the right to test all of their products on animals before they are released to the public.

Topic #2:

Animal testing should be banned for all products other than health-related products.

DISCUSS IT

Work with a partner or in small groups. Discuss the following questions.

1. Do you think that animal testing can be justified for certain cosmetic products?
2. Do you think it's right to conduct animal testing for products that only serve to enhance our beauty?
3. Do you think there should be any limitation on the animal testing for health products such as pharmaceuticals?

WRITE IT

Choose one of the questions above and write a paragraph stating your own opinion.

ANSWER KEY

Please note:

The reading for this topic is also available in full-page format at the end of the lesson (page 4).

Comprehension:

1. The European parliament recently voted to ban the use of animal testing for cosmetic products.
2. Currently, in the European Union approximately 38,000 animals are used to test the toxicity in new cosmetic products each year.
3. The ban is set to take effect by 2009.
4. The cosmetic industry insists that animal testing is the best way by far to test for cancer-causing and allergy-causing chemicals.

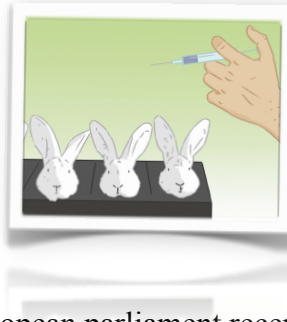
Vocabulary:

A. Match the words

1. h 2. f 3. d 4. i 5. a 6. b 7. c 8. e 9. g

B. Choose the correct word

1. ban 2. benefits 3. irritate 4. experiments



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