

Jason Lindstrom  
Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland

To the Maine State Legislature:

RE: LD 1551 - An Act To Ban the Sale of Cosmetics That Have Been Tested on Animals

Everyday animals are used for cosmetic, product and toxicity/chemical testing and are subject to inhumane conditions with large doses of chemicals and compounds.

The pain and suffering that experimental animals are subject to is not worth any possible benefits to humans. "The American Veterinary Medical Association defines animal pain as an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience perceived as arising from a specific region of the body and associated with actual or potential tissue damage"

Animals feel pain in many of the same ways that humans do; in fact, their reactions to pain are virtually identical (both humans and animals scream, for example). When animals are used for product toxicity testing or laboratory research, they are subjected to painful and frequently deadly experiments.

In Maine, we continue to sell cosmetics tested on animals, even though such procedures are both cruel and unnecessary. By allowing these products to be sold in our state we are effectively supporting the animal testing of cosmetics.

The testing of products on animals is completely unnecessary because viable alternatives are available. As hard as it is to believe, animal experiments for cosmetics and household products continue even though non-animal tests are widely available. Instead of measuring how long it takes a chemical to burn the cornea of a rabbit's eye, manufacturers can now drop that chemical onto cornea-like 3D tissue structures produced from human cells. Likewise, human skin cultures can be grown and purchased for skin irritation testing.

Animal testing should be eliminated because it violates animals' rights, it causes pain and suffering to the experimental animals, and other means of testing product toxicity are available. Humans cannot justify making life better for themselves by randomly torturing and executing thousands of animals per year to perform laboratory experiments or to test products. Animals should be treated with respect and dignity, and this right to decent treatment is not upheld when animals are exploited.

Don't be fooled by claims on a label stating that a product wasn't tested on animals. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration doesn't regulate "not tested on animals" packaging labels, so companies can put them on their packaging even if the product or ingredients have been tested on animals or tested on animals in China.

Sincerely,  
Jason Lindstrom  
Treasurer & Volunteer Board Member  
Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland