

Topic: The Question of Animal Testing

Committee: Ecology and Environment

Submitted by: United States of America

Defines animal testing as “procedures performed on living animals for purposes of research into basic biology and diseases, assessing the effectiveness of new medicinal products, and testing the human health and/or environmental safety of consumer and industry products such as cosmetics,”

Recognising that many countries and unions, such as the EU, only allow animal testing when there is scientific justification to do so or when the expected benefits will outweigh the potential risks,

Alarmed that 97% of animals tested on die because of or are intentionally killed after being tested on,

Noting that the USA, a large contributor to the deaths of animals due to testing, is passing or amending laws, such as the New York Cruelty-Free Cosmetics Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, to reduce the number of animals being tested on in circumstances which can be avoided,

Aware that animal testing can have huge benefits to humanity when being used to test medicines and vaccines for new and existing diseases,

1. Calls for the formation of a new UN sub body, the United Nations Committee on the Regulation of Animal Testing (UNRAT), to combat the unnecessary loss of animal life due to testing by:
 - a) Ensuring that all parties engaging in animal testing do so in accordance with international standards, and that proper attention is given to the welfare of animals,
 - b) Working with government agencies, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and companies to research into more humane alternatives to testing on animals,
 - c) Setting international guidelines regarding the treatment of animals being tested on, what practices can be carried out and what procedures should not be used on living creatures;
2. Asks member nations to swiftly prohibit the testing of cosmetics, cleaning products, potentially dangerous food additives, and other similar substances on animals, as these tests will not provide information important to human health as well as the fact that there are other ways to perform similar tests that do not harm animals;
3. Requests all member nations work with UNRAT to negotiate a treaty guaranteeing the rights and safety of animals, and that animal testing will only take place in certain medical situations where the test could bear significant positive implications for humans, to be agreed on by 2026, implemented by 2030, and revisited in 2035 to consider banning animal testing completely;
4. Proposes that any organisation that engages in animal testing must apply for and obtain an International Animal Testing License (IATL) from UNRAT, to be revalidated yearly, which will ensure that all tests are carried out in a safe environment and that all animals used will receive the necessary medical treatment after the procedure, and any organisations found to be operating without a permit to be subject to actions such as but not limited to:
 - a) Investigation into their practices to be carried out by UNRAT,
 - b) Prevention from obtaining an IATL in the future,
 - c) Referral to the national judicial system of the country that the alleged breaches of regulations were committed in, if the country was a signatory of the aforementioned treaty;

5. Urges all organisations to keep track of and document all animals that are tested on, and for this information to be shared with and reviewed by UNRAT, recording information such as:
 - a) The species of the animals,
 - b) The country of origin,
 - c) What tests are being carried out on each animal,
 - d) Why the tests are being performed,
 - e) The results of the tests and the effects on the animal used;
6. Recommends that only certain species of animals that are not endangered, considered sacred or important to some religions or more likely to be badly harmed than others during procedures are allowed to be tested on, and that a “safe list” of all the animals that are allowed to be tested on is compiled by UNRAT;
7. Suggests that UNRAT, in collaboration with the World Bank, designates funding to LEDCs to be used to pay for alternative ways to test new medicines other than on animals, which will be accompanied by a UN funded study to create and trial new alternatives;
8. Endorses the creation of a mass media campaign to highlight to the general public the negative effects of animal testing including the poor treatment of animals, the potential risk of infected animals being improperly disposed of after death, leading to contact with wild animals and an outbreak of new disease in the species and ecosystem, as well as the potential danger of testing new drugs on specimen with a completely different genetic makeup prior to human trials by means such as the following:
 - a) Social media advertisements,
 - b) Public talks and seminars,
 - c) Informative television advertisements
9. Further calls for two international conferences, one in 2025 and one in 2030, to be attended by all member nations who currently allow animal testing, any other member nations interested and any relevant NGOs, to be held in Brussels, Belgium, to address, debate and discuss issues such as but not limited to:
 - a) The impact of animal testing in all sectors on the environment,
 - b) How to find the right balance between animal welfare and human gain,
 - c) The overall benefits and disadvantages of animal testing,
 - d) The alternatives to animal testing found by the UNRAT study, how effective they are and how they can be used in the future;