



ANIMAL TESTING FOR COSMETICS: IS BEAUTY WORTH THE BEAST?

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Introduction: The Unseen Cost of Beauty

In this modern era, demand for cosmetics products which enhance beauty has been increased. And this is increasing to meet the high demands of customers with new cosmetics products. Because of this, companies are more eager to make new products with new more varieties which led to increase in animal testing. They are doing it for their own profit and to meet the need of customers. Animals in large number were killed by doing test on them to identify the toxicity of the product which will be used by customer in future after zero harmful effect. During this process innocent animals were executed like rats, monkey, rabbit, pigs and many more. They are not only limited to testing, forced animals to consume the products to identify the substance is toxic or not for human consumption. This practices are continuously enforced in many countries without thinking about innocent animals.

Why We Need to Stop Animal Testing

It's 2022, and with the advancements in science, I'd say it's high time we kick this archaic practice to the curb.

First, let's talk ethics. The torturous nature of these tests is no secret. These animals are often inflicted with deliberate pain, suffering, and ultimately death, which I would argue is morally indefensible. It's not much different from torturing a child, as animals too, are innocent and incapable of giving consent.

Second, the idea that animals serve as reliable biological models for humans is fundamentally flawed. Biological responses to chemicals can differ vastly between species. We have had numerous instances where drugs deemed safe in animals proved harmful or even lethal to humans later.

The renowned arthritis drug Vioxx, for example, was tested extensively on animals without displaying any problems. However, the medication caused an estimated 60,000-140,000 heart attacks in humans before being pulled off the market.

India's Contribution in Ending Animal Testing

Many legislations were sanctioned by India are:-

First,¹ Prevention of cruelty to animal act,1960 which define the offences against animals and also punishment is specified in prevention of cruelty to animal act,1960.

Second, it also mentioned in Indian Penal Code define about causing misconduct by maiming, killing or poisoning animals then prosecuted for this. third, wildlife protection act, 1972 also guarantees protection to them by enacting the legislation.

Lastly, many campaigns were done to stop this illicit behaviour like (PETA) India and Ministry of Health and family welfare had done their part also.

When it comes to animal testing for cosmetics, India has been ahead of the curve. In 2013, bravo India! It became the first South Asian country to ban cosmetic testing on animals. Following this, in 2014 India also prohibited the ²import of cosmetics tested on animals, becoming the "first cruelty-free cosmetics zone" in South Asia.

India's stringent policy changes have made waves internationally and forced cosmetic giants to reevaluate their stance on animal testing. India has demonstrated how regulation can drive transformation cosmetics industry.

Laws and Regulations outside India

Take a virtual trip around the globe and peep into some of the countries that have adopted anti-animal testing regulations. And those countries are:

European Union

The European Union has been a trailblazer in this regard. Back in 2004, the EU stopped all testing of finished cosmetic products on animals. By 2009, it also banned the testing of ingredients, followed by a ban in 2013 on the sale of products tested on animals elsewhere.

United States

On the other side of the Atlantic, the story isn't as rosy. Currently, there are no federal laws prohibiting animal testing of cosmetics in the U.S., although states like California, Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia have imposed bans.

China

Surprisingly, China had a mandatory rule of animal testing for all foreign cosmetics. However, as of 2021, it revised its regulations, no longer requiring animal testing for most types of imported ordinary cosmetics.

Many countries still allow or even require animal testing, and we still have a long way to go.

¹ <https://blog.ipleaders.in/india-laws-against-cosmetics-testing-on-animals/>

² <http://thebeautyinsideout.com/8-indian-makeup-brands-cruelty-free/>

³ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL TESTING

In Vitro (Test-Tube) Methods

In vitro methods involve testing on human- derived cell cultures in petri dishes. It can accurately model human biology and predict human responses.

Computer (In Silico) Modeling

Sometimes, science sounds like science fiction. In silico modeling uses cutting-edge algorithms and databases to predict a substance's toxicity based on its chemical structure.

No animals, no problem!

Human-Based Studies

Epidemiological studies can identify links between a substance and harmful effects by studying human populations.

These techniques are not only morally sound, they are often cheaper, faster, and more relevant to humans.

CONCLUSIONS: Looking Towards a Cruelty-Free Future

If beauty is about feeling good, then it's crucial that our path to feeling so doesn't come at the cost of another's pain. Choosing cruelty-free products doesn't mean compromising on quality or safety. Countries like India and the EU are testament to that.

It's time we pressed all cosmetic manufacturers to follow suit and governments worldwide to adopt humane alternatives to animal testing.

While the change won't happen overnight, I challenge each one of you to make informed choices the next time you restock your beauty bag. Remember, kindness is beautiful!

³ <https://www.treehugger.com/animal-testing-cosmetics-5202652>