**UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON**

An article from the Argus. 20th July 2021 by Ellie Smitherman - digital reporter

A PETITION calling for a university to stop using animals for experimental research has reached 1,000 signatures in a week. Animal activist group End Vivisection Experiments (EVE) has created a petition for the University of [Brighton](https://www.theargus.co.uk/sport/albion/) to stop its animal experiments and find alternative methods.

Following its annual Freedom of Information (FOI) request, the group were told that the university held 260 mice and guinea pigs on site for research purposes in 2020.

Of those held on the premises, **239** were used for experiments and a further **1,273** were not used for experiments but were culled and their tissue was used where possible.

The university said there was an increase in those not used for experiments in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The animals were reportedly used for medical research experiments with the objective of improving the quality of life for patients with various illnesses and disabilities.

According to the group, the research includes force feeding pregnant mice alcohol to test what damage is done to the foetus when pregnant women drink, which results in the death of the mice.

Other experiments are said to involve making guinea pigs deaf by mutilating their ear drums - then trying to restore their hearing.

The group said they have called for the vice chancellor of the university for a meeting but have not had a response.

It said: “The university is fully committed to the principles of reduction in the number of animals used, refinement of our procedures and replacement of animals by using other techniques.”

At Brighton University, in 2017 alone, there were 1,183 animal experiments. 1,182 mice and 1 badger were used. Note there is a clear emphasis on being ‘first’ with ‘new’ or ‘novel’ research to get published for academic prestige and grant money over getting results. This is why – as shown here – there are no results, only vague ‘suggestions’, ‘implications’, ‘maybes’, and ‘possibilities’ to support vague promises of ‘potential’.

Animal Justice Project has reviewed the latest articles involving animal experimentation published by researchers of Brighton University. Between 2017 and 2018 the University published articles where animals:

• Were forced to ingest alcohol whilst pregnant
• Had magnetic pieces implanted and electrodes inserted in and around their skulls
• Were infected with cancer cells to develop tumours
• Were in isolation their entire lives
• Were killed to obtain colon samples ignoring the possibility of obtaining human samples

Little or no information is provided in articles regarding:

• The numbers of animals (including new breeds of genetically-altered mice) used in experiments
• Information about the welfare of animals used and excluded from experiments
• How the animals were killed (or ‘sacrificed’) at the end of experiments. For example, only two articles included this information (suffocated via Carbon Dioxide and necks broken – both proven to cause long and painful deaths)

Other issues raised by Animal Justice Project include:

• Using too few samples to obtain valid conclusions (e.g. one article used just two samples, and they were from a group not even exposed to the supposed ‘treatment’ being tested).
• Unfounded conclusions, full of the usual ‘suggestions’ and vague claims of future ‘potential’.
Many papers are hidden from the general public behind expensive paywalls pioneered by the notorious Robert Maxwell, and cannot be scrutinised. UK universities are cynically ignoring their ethical and legal obligations under U.K. law by collaborating with overseas universities and other organisations with little or no animal protection laws. **As evidenced by the May 2018 meeting minutes of Leeds University’s Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Committee, UK universities can outsource, participate in, and gain financially from otherwise illegal and unpublishable animal experiments on a technicality as animals experimented on overseas for UK papers are not regulated by UK law and do not have to be ‘discussed’ by UK ethics** committees.
This loophole makes a mockery of both UK and EU animal welfare laws since they can just be ignored when convenient. It also calls the scientific validity of such experiments into question since little or no animal welfare laws means little or no regulation or inspection of animal testing lab standards of conduct and evaluation.
Animals used for experiments suffer not just the tests, but also solitary confinement, cramped environments and over-crowding in cages, which result in multi-breeding, fighting, cannibalism and suffocation.
When they no longer of use, the animals will be killed by having their necks broken, being gassed with CO2, having their heads cut off with scissors, or having their blood drained.
It is falsely claimed by researchers that animal experiments are vital for the advancement of medical science. However, decades of systematic reviews and meta-studies consistently and overwhelmingly show that animal experiments are unreliable, inaccurate, poorly conducted and reviewed, and harm real scientific and medical progress.
The National Institute of Health (NIH) adds that 90% of the drugs tested in human trials fail because they are ineffective or dangerous.

Claire Palmer, Spokesperson, Animal Justice Project, states: “Animal Justice Project has uncovered extremely cruel and futile research at Brighton University, and together with Brighton Vegan Activists we ask Brighton University to provide evidence that a single human life has been saved as a direct result of the animal testing they have conducted, and that they seek to use humane research such as in vitro methods based on human cell tissue, computer models, and stimulation and stem cell methods.”