Cosmetic Testing on Animals

Pushing the Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R.4148) both to Remove Harmful Ingredients from Cosmetics and Promote the Health and Welfare of Animals

Tag Words: Cosmetic testing, Animal Welfare Act, Alternatives to Animal Testing

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Summary: Some cosmetics companies test their products (lipstick, mascara) on animals. The main purpose of cosmetic testing on animals is to ensure that the ingredients in the products pose no harm to the people who use them. Many countries have banned cosmetic testing on animals. Cosmetic companies that do not test on animals likely do not contain potentially harmful or toxic ingredients; these products are usually labeled as “cruelty free”. In order to raise awareness to the public about testing cosmetics on animals and to hopefully ban testing of cosmetics on animals, we wrote a letter to all of the senators across the US seeking their backing of the Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R. 4148).

Video Link: http://youtu.be/LZp7V4deUYg

What products are considered cosmetics? (BT)

Cosmetics are purely superficial means to improve your appearance. They do not require a prescription of any kind and are easily recognized in most cases. For example, your simple ‘color cosmetics’ fall into the realms of eyeshadow, lipstick, mascara, etc. However, some may also include soaps, body washes and hair products as cosmetics. The deciding factor in what is included in cosmetics and what is not is ultimately the regulators of the country that that cosmetic is sold in. Therefore, you will get a different version of what is considered a cosmetic depending on where you are in the world. An example of this is deodorant. While labeled as a cosmetic in the European Union, it is labeled as a drug in Australia and a combination of a drug and cosmetic in the United States. For all intents and purposes, we will stick to the color cosmetic (lipstick, eye liner, etc.) group for this paper as it is the same everywhere (1).

The make-up of cosmetics (AV)

Thousands of chemicals and toxins are introduced into market all around the world, with newer products being reproduced every year. A major class of these products are plastics, however others include cleaners, paints, adhesives, lubricants and other intermediate forms of these products. Some products are prevented from coming in contact with air in the environment, while other products that people use released in high amounts into the environment. More recent laws placed in China, Europe and other places are enforcing that companies to make more products available for testing, which means more animals being placed through pain and suffering (2).
Recent studies find highly toxic chemicals in several cosmetics (AV)

People who apply cosmetics on a daily basis may in fact not be aware of the high level of toxins they are applying to their face and body. In products such as lip gloss and eyeliner, lead and arsenic are not listed as ingredients; however recent testing of these products found that every one of these cosmetic products contained heavy metals. Researchers in Toronto had several products sent to a laboratory, in which foundations, blushes, bronzers, eyeliners and other products were tested for heavy metals including arsenic, lead, mercury, selenium, nickel, cadmium, etc. According to a local newspaper report, it was stated that mercury was not found in any of the products, however out of all the products tested, 96% contained lead, 20% contained arsenic, and 51% contained cadmium. In addition, Nickel was detected in every single product tested, beryllium comprised nearly 90%, 61% thallium and 14% selenium (3).

What harmful chemicals are found in cosmetics? (AV)

When you’re getting ready to head out, whether it’s a fancy restaurant or a family party, you probably might be putting on makeup. You first apply foundation, and then a bit of blush, followed by the right color eye shadow to match your outfit, some eyeliner and a little bit of mascara. Believe it or not, in just that process, you’re applying hundreds of chemicals to your face and body, which can be extremely hazardous to your health. While many people are resorting to finding organic and natural versions of these cosmetic products, it has not be widespread yet. After seeing what exactly is found in these cosmetics, many people might have different opinions about the cosmetics they use.

1. Lead
If you’ve ever applied lipstick to yourself, you’ve applied a layer of lead along with some color. In 2007, out of the 33 brands that tested, more than half of them contained lead, as found by the Campaign For Safe Cosmetics. In a more recent study by the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA), results showed that lead was found in much greater amounts than before. As of now, there is no set regulation for the amount of lead in cosmetics; however there is a set guideline for color additives. Lead is also many times not listed on labels, as it is seen as an “impurity” resulting from processing of the cosmetic.

2. Formaldehyde
Formaldehyde, a chemical that is used to keep dead bodies from decaying can also be found in cosmetic products. Many of our personal care products contain these preservatives in order to keep the bacteria from forming water-based products. Even though formaldehyde is known to be a cancer causing agent, its effect of ingestion has been studied rather than effects of it being absorbed through the skin.

3. Parabens
These kind of specialty chemicals are widely used in the cosmetic industry as a way of preserving cosmetics. While there are other chemicals that work to provide the same function, companies still resort to parabens to maintain longevity of their cosmetics. Parabens have been found to produce several health conditions including cancer, endocrine disruption, reproductive toxicity, immunotoxicity, neurotoxicity and skin irritation.

4. Fragrance
In many perfumes and scented products, fragrance is a common ingredient in most. Most companies will not list the components making up the “fragrance” portion, which can include anything from allergens to synthesizers to neurotoxins.

5. Phthalates
Phthalates are a group of chemicals used in plastics and many personal care products. They help the product retain its color and scent, making it harder for it to breakdown. Loopholes within the law allow companies to omit it from being listed as an ingredient, as long as it's listed under “fragrance”.

6. Ethoxylated Compounds
These compounds also found in many cosmetic products, oftentimes referred to compounds containing “eth” or “PEG”. They are formed when combined with ethylene oxide, which is a well known breast cancer causing agent. During this process, ethylene oxide is added to other chemicals as a way to make it less harmful when placed in the skin. The end result of this process forms 1,4-dioxane, which can also cause breast cancer (4).

What heavy metals are commonly found in makeup? (AV)

According to "Heavy Metal Hazard: The Health Risks of Hidden Heavy Metals in Face Makeup," 49 different makeup products including foundations, concealers, blushes, eyeliners/eyeshadows and mascaras were tested. The results and breakdown of the toxins and heavy metals within the products showed up as:

- 96 percent contained lead
- 90 percent contained beryllium
- 61 percent contained thallium
- 51 percent contained cadmium
- 20 percent contained arsenic

More importantly, each product contained two of the highest toxins which are extremely harmful to health. In addition, the products also contained adequate amounts of the other toxic heavy metals.

Health risks associated with exposure to heavy metals found in cosmetics (AV)

Toxins found in cosmetics are simply one of the many examples in which exposure should be avoided. While many people do not realize the excessive amounts of lead found in lipstick, when applied onto the skin, it can accumulate in the body and potentially lead to serious health effects. According to a report, some of the more common health effects that can occur to a person include:

- cancer
- reproductive and developmental disorders
- neurological problems’
- memory loss
- lung damage
- cardiovascular, skeletal, blood, kidney and immune system problems
- headaches
The exact effect that a certain cosmetic product can have on someone is difficult to determine because the effect is dependent on other factors such as exposure to other chemicals, how much the exposure was, and how toxic the chemical is. Researchers have found scientific data explaining what is considered “safe” in terms of heavy metal exposure. For the most part, the effects that result from exposure to these toxins deems further research and findings. Amongst all the products tested, cadmium, arsenic and lead were found in high amounts in lip glosses. This could possibly result in ingestion of such harmful chemicals, which can cause accumulation in the body. In general, there is very little information known concerning the effects of toxin exposure. It has also been very difficult to determine how much of the chemical accumulates on the skin over a certain period of time. As is known, different chemicals produce different effects, and given the amount of cosmetics available, it is almost impossible to study each one (3).

Why heavy metals are not included on cosmetic labels? (AV)

While many of the heavy metals found in cosmetics have been tested, and some places such as Canada have banned their use, they do not necessarily have to appear on labels. Oftentimes, they appear as “impurities” and are therefore not included in ingredients. For example, many of these heavy metals are only found in cosmetics because they either were part of the raw material, or they formed as a result of the formation of some byproduct. Another case could be formation of these heavy metals through the breaking and processing of chemicals. In any of the above cases, the metal is not necessarily listed, even though there is the “impurity” of the heavy metal (3).

How can you be sure what you are applying if they are not listed? (BT)

You may be concerned, as a consumer of these products, about what exactly is in the makeup you are applying if the harmful chemicals are not listed on the label. Fortunately, you are not alone. In addition to online resources like the Environmental Working Group’s “Skin Deep” database, there is an app that you can download onto your smartphone so it is always handy. This app is called the ‘Think Dirty’ app. The purpose of this app is to compare the products you intend to buy with the potentially harmful chemicals and toxins it contains. The app uses the barcode of the item to search for the ingredients in the app’s database. One huge benefit is that it can even suggest products that would be less harmful. This allows consumers to make a statement using their money and what they choose to spend it on. If consumers make it known that we will buy a cleaner product over a toxic one then they will be forced to adhere to the principle of supply and demand and make products with the toxins eliminated. The elimination of these hazards also gets rid of the need for the products to test on animals because the product will be deemed safe (5).

Some common myths about the safety of cosmetics (BT)

People might think that just because a product is able to be sold on store shelves that it is safe to use. This is so far from the truth. It turns out that the Food and Drug Administration has no control over what toxins are placed in cosmetics. They only require that certain additives are not included that have some known hazards like chloroform or methylene chloride. Only eleven chemicals are deemed to be unsafe for use in cosmetics and this is done by the Cosmetics
Ingredient Review Panel, which is not even a government agency. Even though these toxins are applied outside the body and not ingested does not mean they cannot get into the biological system and do overall bodily harm. Moreover, companies have even been seen to put ingredients that penetrate the skin even further than the superficial epithelium. In order to combat chemicals in products, you might look for labels that ensure that the product is “natural” or “organic”. Those labels can be misleading since they do often consist of man-made chemicals. In fact, there is not even a limit to how many chemicals a product must contain to be labeled as “natural”. Products labeled as “organic” could have the bare minimum of ten percent organic ingredients (6).

Why are animals used for testing? (AV)

In 1938, Congress enacted the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act which allowed for testing of drugs and cosmetics on animals, after several incidents involving untested products occurred. In the 1930’s, several cases of women going blind emerged, as result of a certain brand of mascara, and in 1937, hundreds of people died as a result of a new cough medicine called Elixir Sulfanilamide, which contained toxic ingredients (7). Before 1938, there was no law that regulated the safety of products and consumers would have to run the risk of any cosmetics or drugs they used (8). Since the passing of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, approximately 26 million animals (per year) are used for testing in the U.S. Animals have helped to develop medical treatments, determine the toxicity of medication, and check how safe a product is so that it can be used on humans (9). The main reason why animals are used is because they help ensure the safety of drugs through having the cosmetic or drug tested on the animal before being placed on the market. Any dangers or harm that can be inflicted on humans are then avoided, while helping improve the quality of human life. Alternatively, the animals used in cosmetic testing are considered to be the closest match to humans and thus stimulate a similar effect in humans (10).

The Cost to Animals (AV)

Perhaps the biggest criticism of cosmetic testing is the pain and suffering that many animals go through during any procedure. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, pain in animals includes any “unpleasant sensory and emotional experience perceived as rising from a specific region of the body and associated with actual or potential tissue damage”. Animals, just like any human being, experience pain and their reactions to pain are very much the same as that of humans. The benefits of testing are not worth the pain and suffering of these animals (11). In an effort to test certain products, animals are oftentimes infected with diseases, poisoned for toxicity testing, skin burned, maimed, left with brain damage, blinded, along with many other invasive procedures. Procedures that cause greater amounts of suffering include long periods of withdrawal, electric shocking, restricted access to food and water, repeated breeding, and separating young from their mother. For instance, in toxicity test, the animal is receiving the treatment every day, for however long until about two years, with time in between for recovery. Unfortunately, many of the animals that are used in cosmetic testing end up being euthanized or dying before the study is completely finished. In addition, many other tests include restraining the animal with a device or immobilizing certain parts of the animal’s body such as the head, neck, legs and pelvis. For example, there was a test in which mice and rats were prevented from moving by being placed in tubes, shocked at their feet, hung from their tails, and forced to swim so they didn’t drown. Such procedures can cause stress and frustration in the animal (12).
Other more common methods include anesthetization, intubation and euthanasia. Someone who lacks the proper experience when carrying out these experiments can cause severe pain and discomfort to the animal. If the researcher administers a paralyzing agent, but is not monitoring the animals vital signs, the animal can be under great amounts of pain however is unable to move due to the agent. Aside from the pain and suffering endured during each procedure, animals also suffer day-to-day stress from merely living in the laboratory. In 2009, an investigation showed how monkeys that were kept in lab cages showed signs of stress by frantically spinning around, pulling their hairs out and biting their wounds. Not only are animals forced to undergo unwanted painful testing, but they are also confined to live in crowded cages with no means of entertainment. Most never see the outdoor lighting or receive a sniff of fresh outdoor air, preventing them from living a happy normal lifestyle. Not only do they live under these conditions, but they must live in fear of the next dreaded experiment. We can only imagine, but only they know the pain and suffering they are left to live with everyday, some even for the rest of their lives (12).

**Laws in place and regulations regarding animal testing (EK)**

There are laws and regulations in place concerning the use of animals in labs, but they are lax and contain many loopholes. The two main regulations in charge of animal testing are the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The PHS funds the use of live vertebrate animals in research laboratories. The AWA, which was enacted in 1966, is supposed to make sure animals in research, testing, teaching, exhibition, and transport are not harmed in any way. However, the AWA provides only minimal protection to certain species while the vast majority of laboratory animals, including rats and mice which make up over 90% of test animals, are not covered under the law at all. Those species that are covered are only given minimal humane standards for feeding, handling, shelter, and veterinary care (11).

Along with the AWA, labs using live vertebrate animals in research must also follow the rules of the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Although more animals are covered by the PHS Policy than by the AWA, no one would find out if an animal is mistreated because it is self-policing. There is no one who comes in to frequently monitor animal practices in labs. It is basically just an honor system. (11).

Even with the minimal protections for animals given by the AWA and PHS Policy, millions of animals still suffer and die from painful research methods. In the end, the bare minimal protections to animals by the AWA and PHS Policy do very little to help the millions of animals suffering in laboratories. These laws and regulations are misleading to the public. Just because there is a law or a regulation does not always mean that it is enforced. That is the problem with the AWA and PHS Policy. (13).

**Tests performed on animals (AV)**

Animals used in testing are used to help determine how safe cosmetics and personal care products, such as lipstick, mascara, shampoo and cologne will be for humans. Approximately thousands of mice, guinea pigs, rats, and rabbits die every year as a result of these painful tests, in which oftentimes no anesthesia is provided to them (14). Any cosmetic product that needs to be tested can be done so through tests that test for skin and eye irritation, allergies, poisoning, genetic damage, birth defects, cancer effects, etc (13).
The following list outlines several cosmetic testing experiments performed on animals.

1. Testing for skin sensitivity/irritation
   An estimated 32 guinea pigs and 16 mice are used to test for possible allergic reactions of the skin. In this process, the chemical/product is applied or injected into the skin of the animal. Signs can include redness, ulcers, inflammation and itchiness. The same procedure can be used with rabbits, in which the skin is shaved onto which the product is then applied directly. The rabbit is then observed for irritation or corrosion of the skin.

2. Testing for eye irritation
   One to three rabbits are used to test for irritation and corrosion to the eye. In this process, the product is added onto the rabbit’s eyes. The rabbit is then observed for signs which include redness or bleeding. More severe symptoms include blindness.

3. Testing for Acute Oral Toxicity
   An estimated number of 7 rats are used to determine how much of the substance needs to be ingested in order to have half of the animals die within a 14-day period of exposure. In this process, a feeding tube is placed down the animals’ throat, which then allows for the product to be swallowed easily. Some symptoms that result include diarrhea, convulsions, bleeding from the mouth. More severe symptoms include seizures, paralysis and lastly, death of the animals.

4. Testing for carcinogenic and chronic toxicity
   About 400 rats are used to test for certain types of cancer and other long-term health issues associated with exposure of the chemical. In this process, the rat is forced to inhale and or eat the product. The rat is exposed to the chemical for nearly two years, of which it is then killed so that tissues can be analyzed for any traces of cancer.

5. Testing for reproductive development
   Approximately 675 rats are used to test the chemicals effect on the animals’ capability to produce offspring, and of any possible defects that can result at birth. During this experiment, both male and female rats are obligated to ingest the toxin for about 4 weeks, until they can be mated. Once the female becomes impregnated, she is also exposed to the chemical on a daily basis. Four days after she has given birth to her pups, both the mom and pups are killed so that their tissues can be further analyzed. A similar experiment is conducted, however with an estimated 2,600 rats. In this test, the pups are also forced to ingest the chemical. Some die, but of those that live, the females are made to become impregnated. The new set of pups are also forced to ingest the chemical, until they reach the age at which they are killed so tissues can be analyzed as well.

6. Testing for genotoxicity
   Estimated 12-500 rats are used to test for initial stages of cancer. In this experiment, the rats are made to ingest the chemical for a period of 14 days. After about two weeks, bone marrow and blood is collected from the animal, and is then examined for genetic variations in the tissue (14).
What happens during cosmetic testing? (EK)

Cosmetic testing either involves testing of the final product or an individual ingredient within the product on an animal. Some countries are contracted to perform testing within the country of the cosmetic company’s headquarters and some cosmetics may be contracted out to a country where animal testing is required. In most cases, these tests are performed in China where cosmetic animal testing is required and highly encouraged (16).

The main purpose of cosmetic testing is to ensure that the ingredients in the products pose no harm to the people who use them. They are also tested for overall toxicity, which is why chemical products either have “CAUTION,” “WARNING,” or “DANGER” labeled on them. Ingredients or final products that pose the least amount of harm to tested animal are given the “caution” label. Those that cause death to the animal in a short amount of time are given the “danger” label. An example of an ingredient that would be tested on an animal is retinol. Retinol makes a person more susceptible damage from the sun’s rays. Therefore, skin care manufacturers will usually recommend a person use a sun protection factor (SPF) of a minimum amount to protect skin from damage and burning. Despite the variety of strict testing, some people still suffer from reactions to cosmetics. This indicates a challenge because it proves that not everyone is the same. The results of applying a chemical onto or into an animal will not necessarily be the same if applied to a human. Currently, cosmetic testing is doing fairly well without the use of animal testing in countries where it is banned. Hopefully the ban of cosmetic testing on animals and the successes of non-animal methods will continue with other countries, including the U.S. (16).

Controversy of cosmetic testing (AV)

The use of animals for cosmetic testing has been of much controversy because animals experience pain and suffering, ultimately dying, all for the sake of making people “look good”. It is this particular aspect that brings about disapproval from people all around the world. While many support animal testing due to the fact that it has helped to save and improve people’s lives, they do not support the use of animals for cosmetic testing because it lacks a medical purpose; simply for the purpose to enhance their physical appearance. Oftentimes the finished cosmetic product is not tested on animals; however certain products that serve for both cosmetic and medical purposes are exempt from animal testing regulations. A perfect example happens to be the wrinkle treatment botulinum toxin, also known as Botox (16).

Statistics of effectiveness of animal testing (BT)

Drs. MacLennan and Amos expressed in “Cosmetics and Toiletries, Manufacturers and Suppliers” that there is no better species than humans to test products that will be used by humans since it is impossible to correlate data from animal to human because of their all around diversity. You would think that if the products were to be sold to humans, then the products would be tested on humans. That is not the case for cosmetics nor most things manufactured with chemicals. It must be taken into account that the animals that are tested on have a completely different makeup than humans do. It would only make sense that products tested on animals would not behave the same when applied to humans and that, in fact, is the case. For example, for one study trying to find the link between glass fibers and cancer, animals models were used
and found to be safe while an in vitro test found the glass fibers did indeed have a link to causing cancer. How can these tests be deemed reliable when 10 out of 25 (40% error rate) chemicals used on animal test subjects were misclassified? No doubt that these error rates pop up in other areas of animal testing. We have literally no backing for animal testing in cosmetics; we simply assume it has some benefit to humans. In addition, humans have different skin types that react in different ways to different cosmetics. One animal test does not give the full spectrum of effects of a product therefore, even if animal testing indicates the safety of a certain product, it can cause reactions to individual people making the animal testing worthless (17).

Alternatives to cosmetic testing (EK)

Eliminating animal testing of cosmetics is very possible. Many companies are supporting alternative testing methods, reducing animal testing, and some even favor a complete ban on animal testing. As a result, they reduced expenses and saved time. Animal testing is expensive, slow, and unpredictable. And the number one reason for that is because animals are simply not people (16 & 17).

Instead of using ingredients that are known to have negative effects if accidentally swallowed or overapplied, companies can use ingredients that are known to pose no short- or long-term health risks on the human body. There are thousands of safe ingredients that have either been tested in the past that posed no harm to animals or do not require new testing. This is what has caused so many socially conscious companies to refuse selling products tested on animals. Companies can use non-animal tests or invest in the development of these new alternatives. Nearly 50 non-animal tests have been approved for use. These alternatives are less costly and much more relevant to people. Over the past 30 years scientists have developed many of these alternative methods. These continued and successful methods include the use of human blood, cell lines, artificial skin, computer models, and microfluidics devices to test the safety of cosmetic products and the formulations within them. Although these tests are still new compared to the old-fashioned animal testing methods, researchers have saved animal lives and money by switching to these alternatives. Animal testing for cosmetics and the marketing, advertising, and sale of cosmetics tested on animals have been completely banned in the European Union and Israel. As a result, cosmetic companies that test on animals are restricted from selling their products in the EU, which is why many U.S.-made beauty products are not found there (16 & 17).

The fight to eliminate animal testing is not limited to the cosmetics industry. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and even many Environmental non-profit organizations such as the Environmental Defense Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council rely heavily on animal testing (23). In 2007, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) issued a report recommending that the EPA change the way it tests for chemicals such as pesticides. Since pesticides are already known to pose harm to humans and animals if ingested, why does the EPA continue to use millions of animals in these tests? By placing a greater reliance on in vitro testing, researchers can study the effects of chemicals on human biology while using far fewer animals, if any at all. By doing so, scientists would be able to come up with better data and test a lot more chemicals more quickly with fewer costs (16 & 17).

How things have changed in the animal testing industry (BT)
Animal testing in cosmetics has been around since the invention of cosmetics and from that time until now, we have made major strides at phasing out these cruel tests especially in the last few years. At one point, they were not even considered among the animals included in the Animal Welfare Act of 1966 but now, some countries have laws prohibiting these tests from being done altogether. In 2009 the European Union announced they would phase out all currently stocked cosmetics tested on animals and then introduce a ban on the import and selling of all products tested on animals, finished products and ingredients. By last year, all cosmetics sold and manufactured in the European Union are cruelty free. In addition to the European Union, countries like India, Israel and Norway have now banned animal testing for cosmetics. However, China is completely different in the fact that they require these tests on animals in order to sell the product in China. Thankfully, there are now talks of China lifting that clause for certain products. Currently in the United States, the Humane Cosmetics Act is in congress followed the European Union’s example of banning animal testing and eventually the ban on selling products tested on animals. Similar the Humane Cosmetics Act, Australia introduced the End Cruel Cosmetics Bill in March of this year (20 & 21).

What can be done to end animal testing? (EK)

There are numerous ways to decrease the need for animals in lab tests. However, ending animal testing all together requires serious action.

The United States Congress should pass the Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R. 4148), which would prohibit cosmetic animal testing in the U.S., prohibit the sale and transport of cosmetics tested on animals, and gradually eliminate cosmetics and ingredients tested on animals. This bill was introduced in the House of Representatives back in March 5, 2014, but it has been put on hold by the Energy and Commerce Committee. Since this legislation would put an end to cosmetic animal testing, it would encourage companies to develop alternative methods and increase the use of these methods. The prohibition of animal testing in the Humane Cosmetics Act would take effect one year after the date of enactment and the prohibition on the sale and transport of products tested on animals would take effect three years after the date of enactment (24). This would give companies plenty of time to invest in the many alternative methods that science has to offer. The more pressure the American public puts on Congress to act on this issue, the more the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate will listen and decide to act. After all, members of Congress do want to be re-elected before the end of their terms. This law, if enacted, would protect people by making sure that only safe products tested with new technology enter the U.S. market. American consumers have every right to know what’s in their cosmetics and how safe they are to use. With quick and new scientific advances and alternatives to animal testing, there is no reason those products cannot be humane too (19).

Another way to phase out this practice is consumer pressure. If companies see that consumers show a much stronger preference for products not tested on animals, they will target that market group. The more consumers purchase cruelty-free products, the more they are supporting the companies that sell them. In turn, these companies will become as competitive, if not more competitive, than their non- cruelty-free counterparts. It is the law of basic supply and demand. By doing a simple internet search, people can easily find out which companies test on animals
and which companies do not. Again, the more consumers purchase cruelty-free products, the
more the competitors will get the message and listen to the consumers.

Making donations to non-profit organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States
(HSUS) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is an effective, long-term way
to phase out animal testing. These organizations are committed to ending animal testing forever.
The more donations they receive, the better they are able to promote their message and to raise
awareness to the public through political activism and social media. Through the Humane
Society’s “Be Cruelty-Free” campaign, they are working both inside and outside the U.S. to
create a world where laboratory animals no longer have to suffer to produce products that we use
every day to improve our own appearances. They are working closely with scientists from
universities, private companies, and governments throughout the world to support and push for a
new modern day approaches to testing. Unlike some animal tests that can take months, or even
years to complete, these new alternatives supported by academia and the government deliver
results that are actually relevant to humans in a few days or less. (18 & 22).

Community Action: Advocating the Humane Cosmetics Act

In order to raise awareness to the public about cosmetics animal testing, we wrote a letter to all
of the senators across the US seeking their backing of the Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R. 4148)
which was brought to a congressional committee on March 5th of 2014. We stressed the
advantages of passing the bill and the more accurate alternatives to testing cosmetics on animals.
So far, we have only received response letters from three senators. Some senators gave automatic
replies saying that since they receive so many e-mails per day, they will only respond to
residents of the state they represent. All three expressed their support for our cause and will
support any piece of legislation that improves the welfare of animals. Since the year is coming to
a close, Congress is focusing more on the holidays. Come January, a new Congress will be
sworn in. Fortunately, the three senators who responded will remain the Senate for at least 4
more years because one term in the senate is 6 years and these elected officials were elected in
2012. The letter is as follows:

Dear Senator __________,

You may not think about what happens to your hand soap, shampoo, or lip balm from the time it
is manufactured to the time it reaches store shelves. But what you should know is that these
products go through a dark phase before they are sold. You may be aware that cosmetics such as
these are tested daily on animals to ensure the safety of the ingredients and formulations in them,
but you may not be aware of the pain and suffering these animals are required to endure. Not all
cosmetics companies test their products on animals in the United States, but many American
companies that sell their products to China have them tested there instead. Cosmetic animal
testing is cruel, useless, and expensive. There are many alternatives to using animals in these
tests. The Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R. 4148) was introduced on March 5, 2014, but it has not
gone any further than that. As students of a concerned community, we urge you to support H.R.
4148, sponsored by Representatives Jim Moran (D-VA) and Michael Grimm (R-NY).
The Humane Cosmetics Act has many benefits to both animals and people. This legislation would end painful tests that rabbits, mice, rats, and guinea pigs endure to evaluate cosmetics safety for products like mascara, shampoo, and shaving cream by prohibiting animal testing for cosmetics manufactured or sold in the U.S. The bill does not prevent personal care products companies from innovating. Animal testing would end after one year and the sale of animal tested products would be banned after 3 years. This provides cosmetics companies with enough time to switch to alternative testing methods if need be.

Cosmetic companies need not ban testing all together. There are many alternatives that are less costly, do not need animals, and are more reliable at predicting safety. In the past three decades, scientists have developed many advanced alternatives to animal testing. These methods include the use of human blood, cell lines, artificial skin or computer models to test the safety of products. These humane alternatives which are cheaper, faster, and more relevant to humans, would take the place of cruel and unnecessary animal tests in the U.S., just like in the European Union and Israel, where legislation ending cosmetics animal testing has already been adopted.

The Humane Cosmetics Act provides a perfect opportunity to make sure modern and humane alternative tests are at the heart of ensuring American consumers’ safety. Evil succeeds when good people stand together and do nothing. If other developed countries can terminate the unnecessary and horrific acts of animal testing in the cosmetics industry, so can the United States of America.

Sincerely,
Erik Koppisch, Bianca Tenneriello, and Alejandra Villalobos

Response from Senator Menendez:

Dear Mr. Koppisch:
Thank you for contacting me to express your support for H.R. 4148, the Humane Cosmetics Act. Your opinion is very important to me, and I appreciate the opportunity to respond to you on this critical issue.

As you may know, the Humane Cosmetics Act would prohibit animal testing for cosmetics developed in the United States. Furthermore, it would prohibit the sale or transport of any cosmetics where the final product or any component was tested on animals. Currently, this legislation has only been introduced in the House of Representatives and referred to the Energy and Commerce Committee. Should companion Senate legislation be introduced, I will be sure to keep your views in mind.

I am proud to have received the 2013 Humane Champion Award from the Humane Society of the United States for my leadership on the Horse Transportation Act which would prohibit from the transporting of horses in motor vehicles containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another. The Act would create civil penalties of at least $100 for each horse transported. The award was also given in recognition of my perfect score on the 2013 Humane Society Scorecard. Furthermore, I have been named either a Humane Champion or a Legislative Leader by the Humane Society every year since 2006. I look forward to continuing to fight for animal rights and living up to this honor.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I
may be of further assistance. I invite you to visit my website (http://menendez.senate.gov) to learn more about how I am standing up for New Jersey families in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator

Response from Senator Donnelly:

December 4, 2014

Dear Mr. Koppisch,
Thank you for taking the time to contact me about animal welfare. Like you, I support policies that ensure the humane treatment of animals.

As you may know, the Animal Welfare Act (P.L. 91-579) seeks to ensure that animals used for research, bred for commercial sale, exhibited to the public, or commercially transported are treated humanely. Owners of animals that fall under the protections established by the Animal Welfare Act must be licensed or registered, and must provide animals with minimum standards of care. Some have raised concerns that protections under the Animal Welfare Act fall short of preventing the mistreatment of animals used for research and experimentation purposes.

As your Senator, I believe that animals used for medical research purposes are entitled to ethical and compassionate treatment. The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee has primary legislative jurisdiction over the Animal Welfare Act. As a member of this committee, I will continue to closely monitor legislative proposals to ensure that animals are treated humanely.

It is a privilege to represent you and all Hoosiers in the U.S. Senate. Your continued correspondence is welcome and helps me to better represent our state. I encourage you to write, call, or email if my office can ever be of assistance. You can also check out my Facebook page and follow me on Twitter by visiting my website.
Response from Senator Warren:

Dear Erik,

Thank you for contacting me to express your strong support for animal welfare.

As you may know, I am an avid dog lover. My husband and I recently lost our golden retriever, Otis. Otis was deeply woven into the fabric of our lives. We miss him, but we are grateful for the time we had with him. I am saddened by his loss, and I am also saddened by stories of dogs and other animals that don't have the opportunity to lead safe and happy lives, free from abuse and cruelty.

I strongly support protecting animals from abuse and inhumane conditions, including pet abuse by owners, cruel practices that exist on some factory farms, dangerous wildlife traps, and the unnecessary use of animals in product testing. I look forward to examining future legislation to promote animal welfare, and I will keep your thoughts in mind.

I appreciate your reaching out to me, and I hope that you will contact me again in the future about issues of importance to you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Response from Senator Whitehouse:

Mr. Erik Koppisch

Dear Mr. Koppisch:

Thank you for contacting me with your support for legislation to ban the testing of cosmetic products on animals. I appreciate hearing from you on this issue.
As you know, many companies continue to test cosmetic products on animals despite the availability of alternative methods. In 2009, the European Union banned the testing of cosmetics on animals, and, in 2013, banned the sale of all cosmetics tested on animals, no matter where in the world the testing occurred. India followed suit by banning animal testing for cosmetics in 2014.

Earlier this year, legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives to ban the testing of cosmetics on animals in the United States. The House of Representatives has not voted on this bill, the Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R. 4148), and no similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate. Please know I will keep your views in mind should I have the opportunity to vote on any related measures.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please continue to be in touch on this or any other issue of concern.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

References


8. “Why are animals used for cosmetic testing?” Retrieved from http://cbiomed.org/csbr/faq.php#09


Letters to the Editor

(AV- The Record Newspaper)

Shouldn't products for humans be tested on humans?

Dear Editor,

Have you ever stopped to think about how many animals are used to test cosmetics, and die as a result of it? Has it ever occurred to anyone why some products still produce negative effects on humans? Everyone has different views and opinions about the use of animals in testing, whether it be for cosmetics, drugs, or science, which can turn into a heated debate fairly quickly. It is well known that animals including rats, rabbits, and guinea pigs are mostly used for cosmetic testing, however many people do not know exactly how the procedures are carried out. The most commonly practiced procedures in the cosmetic testing industry includes skin and eye irritation tests. Oftentimes, rabbits are put in stocks, where their eyelids are then clipped open so they cannot blink or their belly’s are shaved. Chemicals are then poured into their eyes or skin and left for several days and even weeks, so that scientists can determine how the toxins affect the eyes and skin. Most of these procedures are done without any anesthesia, meaning the animals suffer from the pain. Not only do are animals put through extreme pain, but most of these tests have proven to be highly ineffective. A study done on this particular test shows that “the test grossly over predicted the effects that could be seen in the human eye,” and another said the test, “did not reflect the eye irritation hazard for man.” Imagine how much money, probably billions of dollars, are spent on animals and carrying out these experiments, that don’t even give the results we need. We are better off using humans as models, since that products are in fact for us. Although rats are very similar to us through body functions, there is nothing better than a human study itself.

All around the world, many countries have resorted to banning animals for the use of cosmetic testing, or are creating products labeled as “cruelty free”. In buying these products, we are showing our support, as well as helping save animal lives. While they might not seem of high importance, they are still animals, and there are laws made to protect the rights of animals. They are living beings that deserve a chance at life. I strongly feel that we should slowly eradicate the use of animals for cosmetic testing due to its ineffective results and inhumane acts. Companies that perform such tests focus on profit rather than the quality of life. Supporting cosmetic testing
would mean we support animal cruelty, and personally I feel the world would be a better place if there was no suffering, including animal suffering.

(BT - Targum)
Animal Cruelty In Your Lipstick
Ever wonder what that must-have berry shade of lipstick for fall cost for an animal? Possibly it’s life. Animals such as rabbits, mice, rats and guinea pigs unwillingly give their lives just so you can have the latest waterproof mascara. When people think of animal testing in the cosmetics industry they think slapping some blush on some bunnies and calling it a day. However, the tests these animals go through are far less than glamorous. Tests like skin sensitivity and lethal-dose 50 tests are done to ensure the safety of the ingredients and formulations of makeup even though of their questionable results. Animal testing in the cosmetic industry is unnecessary and outdated with the introduction of new alternative methods which give more reliable and safe results without harm to any animal.

In vitro testing and artificial human skin are just a few of the alternatives available to cosmetic companies wishing to test their products. With these alternatives being more reliable and obviously less harmful to animals, there is no reason to continue sacrificing animals.

As a consumer, you probably think that there is nothing you can do to bring about change with these huge cosmetic name brands, but there is a strong statement you can send to companies by buying cruelty free cosmetics. These animal friendly brands take advantage of the new ways to test their ingredients and products and advocate other brands to do away with animal testing. In addition to shopping cruelty free, you can support the Humane Cosmetics Act that was introduced into congress earlier this year. That bill would make it illegal to test on animals for cosmetics as well as ban the import of cosmetics testing on animals from any other country.

We all need to take a look at what our money is going to and choose to not contribute to current and future animal tests in the cosmetic industry. The animals cannot protect themselves so it is our job to stand up for them and be an advocate.

http://www.dailytargum.com/article/2014/10/animal-testing-inhumane

(EK – NY Times)
Dear Editor,
You may not think about what happens with your eyeliner, shampoo, or lipstick, from the time it is made to the time it reaches the shelves. What you should know is that those products go through a dark phase between manufacturing and shelf life. Imagine having to swallow or have these cosmetics rubbed in your eye. You may ask yourself, “why on Earth would you do that?” My response is, “well, do you think rabbits and guinea pigs are cute?” Who doesn’t think they are? Imagine thousands of these little furry friends in hundreds of laboratories across the country being used as test subjects for the beauty products you buy. It’s cruel, isn’t it? So much for scientists saying animals used in these tests are animals most people don’t really care about. Most animals do not die right away as a result of these tests. Most undergo multiple procedures while experiencing severe pain and distress. Those that do die immediately are simply thrown away in the garbage. Apart from the suffering, the chemicals in these cosmetics are certainly not something you would want to ingest. Not to mention the long-term health effects of some of the chemicals contained within these products. You may wonder why animals are constantly used in these tests when we already know the devastating effects they have on animals and the huge list
of harsh chemicals on the back or side of the package or bottle. Humans and lab animals have
different physiologies, so it is useless to test the effects of cosmetics on these animals. The
European Union and India have already banned the use of cosmetic testing on animals. There is
absolutely no reason why the United States shouldn’t ban this horrible practice.