

# ANIMAL LAW & YOUTH ACTIVISM EDUCATORS' GUIDE



## EPISODE 2 – ANIMALS in RESEARCH

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### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

- Provide a basic synopsis of the lack of transparency with regards to animals in research and the shortcomings of the practice.
- Identify the advancements in new technology alternatives, and in phasing out animal testing, such as cosmetic animal testing bans.
- Understand the negative effects of school animal dissection and identify “student choice” policies and alternatives to dissection.

### PRE-VIDEO QUESTIONS

1. How and why are animals used in research? What types of animals are used?
2. Have any of you dissected an animal in school? If so, what was that experience like? Do you know where the animals came from and how they were killed?

### Animals in Labs

1. What is your reaction to the fact that dogs are frequently used in animal research? How do you feel about other animals being used such as rats and pigs? How about monkeys?
2. Why do you think there is such little transparency with regards to animals in labs in Canada and the United States?

### A Broken Model

1. Aysha Akhtar states that “90 to 95 percent of drugs and vaccines that are found safe and effective in animal experimentation end up failing in human clinical trials”. Why do you think animal testing is so unreliable when it comes to developing medicine for humans?
2. Why do you think there is so much inertia to change the “antiquated legislation” that continues to require animal testing? Who benefits from this ‘broken model’?

### Legislation

1. Why do you think 44 [countries](#), including Canada, India, Australia, the United Kingdom, South Korea, and the European Union, have banned cosmetic animal testing? Presently, ten states in the United States have also banned this practice - why do you think this ban is not nationwide?
2. Why does the FDA Modernization Act possibly represent a big shift in terms of animal testing for drug development?

### Animals Used in Dissection

1. Does your school have something like a Student Choice Policy when it comes to dissection (i.e. one that allows you to choose another learning approach such as a virtual model)? If so, how was this presented to you in class?
2. If your school does have something like a Student Choice Policy, would you be comfortable choosing an alternative to dissection? If it does not, would you be comfortable approaching your Science department about implementing a policy?

[Animals in Research Kahoot](#) (8 questions)

### POST-VIDEO REVIEW

## Extension/Research Questions

1. What are the latest developments with the 'organ-on-a-chip' technology? How close (or not) is this technology to completely or substantially replacing animal testing?
2. Watch the [Save Ralph](#) short film (4 min) from the Humane Society of the United States. Do you think using dark humour is an effective way of spreading a message? In addition, many celebrities, such as Taika Waititi, Ricky Gervais, Zac Efron, Olivia Munn, and Pom Klementieff, lent their voices for this video - what role do you think celebrities have in social change? Are there any potential pitfalls?
3. Research where your school gets its animals for dissection (e.g. talk to your Science department). Is it possible to find out where the company gets the animals originally? How are they killed? What chemicals are used to preserve them, and are there any related hazardous effects? What happens to the animals when you are done using them for dissection?
4. Does your school board, state, province, or territory mandate providing alternatives to dissection? If so, briefly describe the policy (e.g. [North Vancouver School District](#)).
5. [New York's policy](#) states that "any student expressing a moral or religious objection to the performance or witnessing of the dissection of an animal, either wholly or in part, shall be provided the opportunity to undertake and complete an alternative project that shall be approved by such student's teacher; provided ... that such objection is substantiated in writing by the student's parent or legal guardian". Do you feel students should be required to obtain permission from their parent or guardian? Explain.

Field Trips (live)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a local sanctuary for former research animals (e.g. <a href="#">Project Chimps</a> field trips)</li> </ul>
Field Trips (recorded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Fauna Foundation Chimpanzee Sanctuary</a> (10 min)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary</a> (4 min)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Chimp Haven</a> (interactive map with videos)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Save the Chimps</a> (playlist - videos are about 5 min each)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Kindness Ranch Animal Sanctuary</a> (6 min)</li> </ul>
Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Center for Contemporary Sciences</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Canadian Centre for Alternatives to Animal Methods</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Ethical Science</a> (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Human Organs-on-Chips</a> (The Wyss Institute at Harvard University)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Online Dissection Resources</a> (The Science Bank)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Do You Have the Right Not to Dissect?</a>, <a href="#">Waste and Cruelty of Dissection</a>, <a href="#">Replacing Classroom Dissection</a> (National Anti-Vivisection Society)</li> <li>• <a href="#">List of Officially Cruelty-Free Beauty Brands</a> (Cruelty Free Kitty)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Research Animals Fundamentals</a> (Faunalytics)</li> <li>• <a href="#">The First 100</a>, and <a href="#">The Last 1000</a> Research chimps rescued (Wesleyan University)</li> </ul>
Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Students lead the effort to create a better world</a> (Vancouver Humane Society)</li> </ul>
Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Gold Doesn't Rust: The Failing Standard of Animal Testing and its Alternatives</a> (We Animals Media - 23 min) (note: contains some disturbing/graphic scenes)</li> <li>• <a href="#">It's Time to Think Outside the Cage</a> (Charu Chandrasekera, TEDx - 14 min)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Marvel's Hero Project Clip: Genesis Butler the Amazing Animal Ally</a> (Marvel Entertainment - 2 min)</li> </ul>
Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves</a> (Karen Joy Fowler - fiction)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Ape House</a> (Sarah Gruen - fiction)</li> <li>• <a href="#">The Chimps Of Fauna Sanctuary: A True Story of Resilience and Recovery</a> (Andrew Westoll - non-fiction)</li> </ul>