

# Study Guide



Questions About Animal Rights

A TEACHER'S GUIDE

for

TOOLS FOR RESEARCH: QUESTIONS ABOUT ANIMAL RIGHTS

by

Marie Carosello

**TOOLS FOR RESEARCH: Questions about Animal Rights**

37 minutes, 16mm and video, color

© Copyright 1983 Film To Liberate Laboratory Animals, Inc.

Producer: Marie Carosello  
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Editor: Ken MacDonald  
Narrator: Sally Miller Gearhart

Distributed by Bullfrog Films, Oley, PA 19547 (215)779-8226

Recommended for Grades 9-12 (and adult) for use in:

**ANIMAL RIGHTS  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
ETHICS  
BIOLOGY  
VETERINARIAN MEDICINE**

"The use of animals in laboratory experiments is not only a controversial issue but, usually, a highly emotional one. Animal lovers, seeking to prevent such experimentation, tend to argue passionately but, so often, without knowing the facts -- this only weakens their position. Scientists, not directly involved themselves, often argue, equally vehemently, in order to protect the 'rights' of colleagues who are, and on behalf of the principle of scientific freedom."

"If animals are to be protected from abuse it is desperately important that all those concerned should know the real facts. I would urge both layman and scientist, those for such experimentation as well as those against, to see this film."

Dr. Jane Goodall

## SUMMARY OF THE FILM

**TOOLS FOR RESEARCH** exposes the abuse and waste of laboratory animals and advocates the use of alternatives to animals in testing, education, and research. It attempts to answer these questions:

- \* How many animals are used in research every year?
- \* Are lab animals protected by law?
- \* Does animal research really help humans?
- \* Can there be effective research without animals?
- \* Who profits from animal research?

The film refutes many of the myths that have been perpetrated, such as the myth that laws protect lab animals. The film reveals that many experiments are repeated over and over, and that much research has nothing to do with medical advances, but instead tests consumer products and military weapons. Alternatives are shown, thus disproving the myth that animals must always be used. The question of who profits is only partially answered, because the business of animal research is so hidden from the public, that statistics must be estimated.

**TOOLS FOR RESEARCH** widens the issue of lab animals to legal and moral rights for all animals, connecting this idea with other struggles for liberation. The film suggests we humans are kin to and have responsibility to other life forms on earth.

Like all investigative reportings, **TOOLS FOR RESEARCH** asks more questions than it answers, encouraging the viewer to probe further in the hidden world of animal research.

## QUESTIONS AND PROJECTS

- o How many laboratory animals are used every year for purposes of research, education, and testing in your state?
- o Does your state have anti-cruelty laws protecting lab animals? To begin this project, phone or write your local representative or a humane organization.
- o Can stray dogs and cats in your city be sold or given to research labs? Set up an interview with an official at a local pound or humane society and discuss (pet) pound seizure.
- o Are humane groups in your state fighting pound seizure? How? Should the public vote on whether or not stray animals are turned over to research laboratories?
- o Does your school use animals? How many? Where do they come from? Try interviewing the dealer who supplies the animals. Find out how many animals the dealer sells per year, the profit made per year by the dealer, and the profits per animal. What is the dealer's source for the animals?
- o If your school uses animals, who takes care of them?

- o Find out if the manufacturer of a commonly used consumer product in your home tests each and every new, "improved" product on animals. It can be bleach, lipstick, oven cleaner, paint remover, etc. If animals are used, are they anesthetized during the testing? Do they get pain-relieving drugs? What exactly is the test? What happens to the animals eventually?
- o Find out how much tax money goes to support animal research by acquiring a copy of the animal research budget from the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C. (A production assistant working on **TOOLS FOR RESEARCH** was unable to acquire this government document.)
- o Select an ancillary business (manufacturer of cages, water bottles, incubators, etc.) and try to work up their "profit picture."
- o Go to a local teaching hospital, testing lab, or college. Talk to a scientist who uses animals. Try to get a tour of the animal facilities. Take your camera.
- o Students interested in a career in science might write a paper on variations that skew test results when using animals.
- o Investigate alternatives to animals. **TOOLS FOR RESEARCH** covered only three. There are many more. They include cell and tissue culture, mathematical and computer modeling, clinical and epidemiological studies, and chemical techniques. Talk to a scientist using alternatives. Why is he/she using alternatives?
- o One of the people in the film, Dr. Redbird Pinkerman, is a Native American. What is the typical attitude of Native Americans towards animals?
- o Interview a physician you know. Did he/she use animals in medical school? What did he/she feel about the animals at the time? Now? If you remember Dr. Pinkerman's experience, you can relate that and ask for the physician's comments.
- o Another person in the film, John George, is a black who says, "You know, my people were the first laboratory animals in America." What did he mean? Do you know of instances in which women or minority people were subjected to involuntary experimentation?
- o The film suggests treatment of lab animals is similar to the treatment of black slaves, Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated during World War II, and oppressed women. Do you agree?
- o Penicillin helps many human beings, but at low doses it can kill guinea pigs. What other drugs have widely differing results on animals and humans? What are your conclusions?
- o In the film, Dr. Donald Doyle mentions the unspoken "social contract" we have with animals. Do you agree there is such a contract?

- o We humans hold ourselves accountable to each other and to the human community. We have laws and traditions that regulate social behavior - from stop signs to Supreme Court decisions on racial and gender discrimination. Should the research community also be accountable to society?
- o Using Jeff Diner's "**Physical and Mental Suffering of Experimental Animals**," choose an experiment that has been repeated many times over a period of years (e.g. amputating the forelegs of mice to see if they still try to groom themselves.) Find out if this experiment is being done at your school or a nearby college. If it is, why is it being repeated?
- o Military experiments are shown in the film. Do you know of any others that have been recently reported in the press, or shown in other films? If you live near an armed services base, contact the librarian at the base and try to get information on any current weapons testing experiment using animals.

#### **HUMANE ORGANIZATIONS**

There are many groups of all sizes and all persuasions. Some would outlaw all research, some would allow some, provided laws protecting animals are enacted. Before you support or join any group, whether listed below or not, make sure it has a good record of helping animals.

##### **Action for Animals**

P.O. Box #20184  
Oakland, CA 94620

##### **American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research**

175 West 12th Street  
New York, NY 10011

##### **Animal Protection Institute of America**

P.O. Box #22505  
Sacramento, CA 95822

##### **Animal Rights Connection**

P.O. Box #20408  
Oakland, CA 94620

##### **Animal Rights Network (publishes Agenda)**

P.O. Box #5234  
Westport, CT 06881

##### **Animal Welfare Institute**

P.O. Box #3650  
Washington, DC 20007

##### **Coalition to End Animal Suffering in Experiments (CEASE)**

P.O. Box #27  
Cambridge, MA 02238

##### **Feminists For Animal Rights**

P.O. Box #10017  
North Berkeley Station  
Berkeley, CA 94709

**Mirror, Mirror on the Wall**  
247 Everett Street  
Middleboro, MA 02346

(Sells soap and cosmetics that contain no animal products, and have not been tested on animals.)

**People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)**  
P.O. Box #56272  
Washington, DC 20011

**Society for Animal Rights, Inc.**  
421 South State Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### Recommended:

Russell, George K. - "**Laboratory Investigations in Human Physiology**" (New York, Macmillan, 1978). Laboratory manual for undergraduate physiology course. Does not use animals.

### Best Introduction:

Singer, Dr. Peter - "**Animal Liberation**" (New York, Avon Books, 1975). Excellent introduction to issues around rights for animals, connections to other liberation movements (Blacks, women). Well-written, concise, clear, strong on facts.

### Related Publications:

Agenda Newsmagazine of the Animal Rights Network (P.O. Box #5234, Westport, CT, 06881). Good introduction to ideas and activities in the animal movement. Somewhat East Coast oriented, but serves as general clearing house of ideas.

Adams, Richard - "**The Plague Dogs**" (New York, Fawcett Crest, 1977). Adventure novel (now a movie) about two dogs who escape from a British lab, and their friend, a fox. Fiction, but all experiments are factual.

Committee on Physiological Effects of Environmental Factors on Animals - "**A Guide to Environmental Research on Animals**" (Washington, DC, National Academy of Sciences, 1971). Eye-opening government publication on the innumerable factors that skew an animal experiment, from the presence of a plant to a minor drop in temperature. Pro-animal research, but a valuable weapon for those who oppose it on grounds of poor science. Senior high level and up.

Curtis, Patricia - "**Animal Rights: Stories of People Who Defend the Rights of Animals**" (New York, Four Winds Press, 1980). Fictional people, authentic situations and events. Good beginning book for teens and younger.

Diner, Jeff - "**Physical and Mental Suffering of Experimental Animals**" (Washington, DC, Animal Welfare Institute, 1979). Culled from medical publications (1975-1979). Not indexed or well-structured, but worth reading for facts, especially on useless, cruel and/or often repeated experiments. Senior high level and up.

- Gorman, James - "Burden of the Beasts", Discover: The News-magazine of Science (February 1981, pages 22-26). Somewhat pro-animal research, but gives introductory overall view of controversy, with quotes from both sides.
- Holme, Bryan - "Creatures of Paradise" (New York, Oxford University Press, 1980). Delightful collection of fine art from many countries and centuries. Aptly demonstrates humanity's uneasy ambivalence toward animals. For children and adults.
- Kotzwinkle, William - "Doctor Rat" (London, Transworld Publishers, Ltd., 1975). Disturbing, but hilarious, cult novel about a rodent who has sold out to researchers. Other animal characters express the animal rights philosophy in often moving terms. Hard to find, but worth the search.
- Leavitt, Emily Stewart - "Animals and Their Legal Rights: A Survey of American Laws from 1641 to 1978" (Animal Welfare Institute, P.O. Box #3650, Washington, DC, 20007). Federal and state. Helpful analyses and comments. Valuable reference book. Senior high level and up.
- Pratt, Dallas, M.D. - "Alternatives to Pain In Experiments on Animals" (Argus Archives, 228 East 49th Street, New York, NY, 10017, 1980). Well-written, helpful index. Covers most common experiments and testing, and their alternatives. Senior high level and up.
- Regan, Tom and Peter Singer, Editors - "Animal Rights and Human Obligations" (New Jersey, Prentice-Hall, 1976). Anthology giving pros and cons of animal rights, including Aristotle, Descartes, Voltaire, Jeremy Bentham. Centers on vivisection and eating animals. Good historical perspective.
- Rollin, Dr. Bernard - "Animal Rights and Human Morality" (New York, Prometheus Books, 1981). Witty, somewhat academic middle-of-the-road treatment. Covers philosophical, legal, scientific issues around animal rights. Companion book to "Animal Liberation." College level.
- Rowan, Dr. Andrew - "Alternatives to Laboratory Animals: Definition and Discussion" (Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, 2100 "L" Street, N.W., Washington, DC, 20037). Good beginning pamphlet on alternatives. The author is a biochemist.
- Rowan, Dr. Andrew - "Of Mice, Models, and Men: A Critical Evaluation of Animal Research" (Albany, State University of New York Press, Publication Date 1984). Political analysis of animal research, including toxicology testing, use of animals in education. Discusses moral issues, attitudes, alternatives, and history of animal research and antivivisection movement. Senior high level and up.
- Salt, Henry S. - "Animals' Rights" with preface by Peter Singer (Society for Animal Rights, Inc., 421 South State Street, Clarks Summit, PA, 18411, 1980). Classic animal rights text by 19th century British humanitarian and philosopher. College level.

Related Issue: Feminism:

The following books and pamphlets are typical products of the criticism of the medical profession by American feminists.

Corea, Gena - "The Hidden Malpractice: How American Medicine Mistreats Women" (New York, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979).

Ehrenreich, Barbara and Deirdre English - "Complaints and Disorders: The Sexual Politics of Sickness" (New York, The Feminist Press, 1973).

Ehrenreich, Barbara and Deirdre English - "Witches, Midwives and Nurses: A History of Women Healers" (New York, Glass Mountain Pamphlets).

Rich, Adrienne - "Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution" (New York, W.W. Norton and Bantam Books, 1976).

**Related Bullfrog Films**

**THE LAST CHANCE** 28 mins 1980  
Describes the National Zoo's endangered species project in Front Royal, VA. Great pains are taken to study the animals' habits unobtrusively so they can live and reproduce in peace.

**THE VEGETARIAN WORLD** 29 mins 1984  
Overview of history and practices of vegetarianism worldwide. Examines motives which include health, economics, and ethical concerns.

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