



SPEAK

The Voice for the Animals

Q. When is a crime not a crime?



**A. When the victim is
inside Oxford University**

STOP THE OXFORD ANIMAL LAB

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Have you ever asked yourself how it is legal to abuse an animal inside an animal research laboratory, but a punishable crime outside a laboratory?

An RSPCA officer who recently investigated the burning of a dog to death was reported as saying: "I simply can't comprehend what could motivate someone to inflict such appalling pain and suffering to a living creature". Most compassionate individuals would agree.

To the individual animal submitted to torture, suffering is suffering, brutality is brutality, no matter what label you give it. Brutal as it was, the widely condemned burning of the dog differed little in essence from the scenes of torture enacted inside Oxford University thousands of times a year, and where many animals may be forced to undergo experiments for months and even years (*as in the case of the 'Oxford Two', 2 primates who for 15 years repeatedly suffered painful experimental procedures at the hands of Oxford University researchers before they were finally killed*).

Non-human animals are poisoned, burnt, brain damaged, caged and generally abused inside UK research laboratories every year but as long as these abuses are taking place under licence and the person inflicting that pain isn't some psychotic yob, but a professor with a string of letters behind their name, then it's legal.

But what's the difference between the domestic "pet" and laboratory animal?

- Does your companion cat, dog or rabbit, feel more pain just because it's your "pet" and you lavish it with love?
- Does the nameless dog tied to a tree feel more pain while it burns to death because it happens outside a research laboratory?
- The animals imprisoned inside vivisection laboratories have an identical capacity to feel pain and that makes every act of cruelty that is inflicted upon them criminal, whether or not it is legally sanctioned.

The next time you take 'your' dog for a walk and watch him run for the sheer joy of it, or the next time 'your' cat sits purring contentedly on your lap, spare a thought for the cat, dog, or rabbit - just like the one you have at home - alone, cowering in pain in the corner of an Oxford University laboratory cage. It doesn't require a huge leap of imagination to substitute the face of an anonymous animal with that of a much loved 'pet'. These are the only real victims and their abusers are at this moment working inside Oxford University's animal research labs.

Help us stop the expansion of Oxford University's animal torture facilities.



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