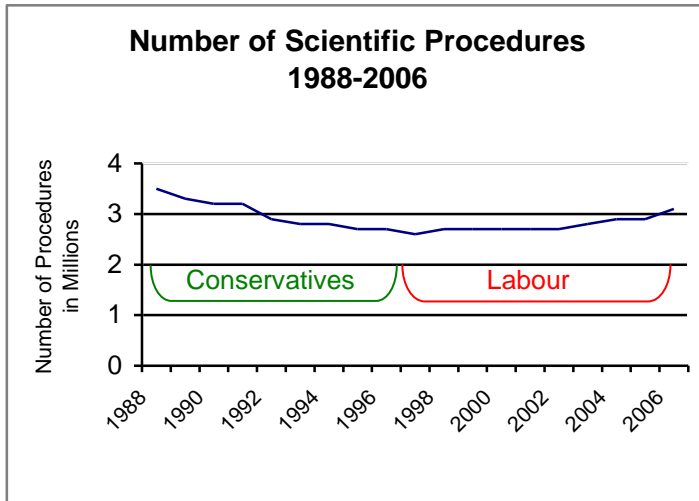


Labour's 10 Years of Broken Promises

Early 1997, a colourful A2 brochure was distributed throughout the country, outlining Labour's plans to deliver higher welfare standards for all animals, including those used for animal experiments.

"New Labour ... New Britain ... New life for animals"

Ten years on, and Labour has committed little towards these pre-election promises for laboratory animals.



The graph illustrates that whilst the Conservatives were in power, the use of animals in scientific procedures was falling.

However, since Labour came into power in 1997, the number of animals used in scientific procedures has steadily increased every year. In fact the figures are the highest they've been since 1991, 15 years ago.¹

In 2006 the Home Office granted licences for over 3 million scientific procedures; an increase of 4% from 2005.²

The pre-election promises:

- *Laboratory animals will "only be used when essential for medical and other scientific purposes".* Earlier this summer claims were made of animals being used to test the harmful effects of recreational drugs such as cannabis and cocaine, yet human studies had already successfully obtained these findings.³
- *"We will support a Royal Commission to review the effectiveness and justification of animal experiments, and to examine alternatives."* After 10 years there is still no sign of a Royal Commission.
- *"To this end we shall promote the principle of the three Rs – reduction in the number of animals used, refinement to cut down on their suffering, and their replacement whenever possible with non-animal methods."* Last year the Home Office gave the National Centre for the 3Rs £250,000.⁴ This is double the amount it gave in 2005, yet amounts to only 0.000008% of its total departmental expenditure.⁵ In fact in 2006, whilst the Home Office granted 519 project licences⁶, the NC3Rs only had enough funding (£1.4 million) to back nine 3R projects.⁷ To put things in perspective, £1.4 million is equivalent to the amount of expenses 9 MPs received last financial year.⁸
- *"We will not license the testing of cosmetics, tobacco or alcohol products on animals."* Whilst there is a voluntary ban on animal testing of cosmetic products and ingredients, there is no law to prevent the sale of products containing ingredients that have been tested on animals elsewhere. The testing is therefore simply outsourced to countries that don't enforce this ban, and the tested products continue to be sold in our shops. The Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain 2006 reveal that 690 animals were used to test alcohol.

¹ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/spanimals06stabs.pdf>

² Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain 2006

³ <http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMI/EDMIDetails.aspx?EDMID=33194&SESSION=885>

⁴ <http://www.publications.parliament.uk> – Commons written answers, 16th April 07

⁵ http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070220/wmstext/70220m0006.htm#column_29WS

⁶ Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain, 2005

⁷ <http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/downloaddoc.asp?id=500&page=201&skin=0>

⁸ <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/HoAllowances0506current.pdf>

- *“We will forbid the use of animals in the testing and development of weapons.”*
Whilst it is forbidden to test any new weapons on animals, existing weapons are still tested, with military lab animal tests doubling in the last 5 years. In 2005, a secret biological and chemical research centre in Porton Down used over 21,000 animals to test weapons.⁹
- *“We plan to introduce a significant increased level of inspection”*
As far back as 2001 Dr Richmond, Chief Inspector of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate, has suggested a need for a team of 33 inspectors.¹⁰ This number still hasn't been reached, with only 27 inspectors responsible for overseeing 3.1 million procedures.

The facts are clear. Labour continues to fail the animals and to fail its people.

⁹ <http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/politics/article447816.ece>

¹⁰ House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures, Minutes of evidence # 116 & 1871