BRAD
Biomedical Research Awareness Day



BEHIND THE SCIENCE

Myths and Facts About Animal Research

Sponsored by

NUAIRE
A Kewaunee Company

BRADglobal.org

WHY ANIMAL RESEARCH?

MYTH Animal research is outdated and no longer necessary.

FACT

Many diseases involve complex interactions between organs, the immune system, and the nervous system that **cannot yet be fully modeled** using cells, computers, or artificial organs. For some questions, animal studies remain essential to protect human volunteers before clinical trials.

DID YOU KNOW?

>90% OF RESEARCH ANIMALS ARE MICE AND RATS

MYTH We know enough biology to skip animal studies.

FACT

Human biology is still not fully understood. Animal studies help scientists discover **how diseases start, how organs interact, and how new treatments affect the whole body**.

WELFARE & CARE

MYTH Animals are not cared for in research.

FACT

Animal research is highly regulated. Studies are reviewed and approved by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) that include **scientists, veterinarians, and community members**. Researchers must justify why animals are necessary and how pain and distress is minimized. Daily care, enrichment, and veterinary oversight are required by law. The Animal Welfare Act, Public Health Service Policy, and IACUCs review animal studies and welfare protections before beginning.

MYTH No one checks on the animals.

FACT

Research facilities undergo **regular inspections**, must keep **detailed records**, and are required to **report animal numbers and welfare practices** to regulatory agencies.

Animal research has helped save countless human & animal lives.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Ask questions & seek multiple perspectives – don't rely on just one source
- Consult credible sources – stay up-to-date using trusted publications & published research
- Engage with experts – talk with scientists & veterinarians to deepen understanding

SCAN THE QR CODE

- Explore more myths and facts about animal research
- Learn about alternatives and oversight
- Submit your own questions or "myths to debunk"

Sponsored by

NUAIRE
A Kewaunee Company

BRADglobal.org

HUMAN & ANIMAL BENEFITS

MYTH Animal research only benefits humans.

FACT

Animal research has led to major advances in veterinary medicine, improving treatments for **cancer, heart disease, orthopedic injuries**, and **infectious diseases** in pets and livestock.

Animals have contributed little to modern medicine. **MYTH**

FACT

Animal studies were essential in developing:

- **Insulin** for diabetes
- **Vaccines** for polio, rabies, and distemper
- **Vascular stents & pacemakers**
- **Organ transplantation** procedures
- Many **cancer treatments**

The truth is, animal research has been —and remains—**foundational** to medical progress.

FUNDING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Animal research wastes public money. **MYTH**

FACT

Publicly funded research—including animal research—is awarded through a **rigorous, competitive peer-review process.** Proposals are evaluated by independent experts for **scientific merit, ethical justification, feasibility, and relevance** to public health needs. Only studies that meet these high standards receive funding, and funded projects are subject to ongoing oversight and accountability.

MYTH Failed studies mean the money was wasted.

FACT

Negative results often prevent **unsafe drugs** from reaching patients and help scientists **refine** future research efforts.

DID YOU KNOW?

SAFE MEDICINE REQUIRES CAREFUL, STEPWISE TESTING.