

Name _____

Animal Experiments

In scientific studies, animals are sometimes used for experiments. Animals are used for experiments because, in many cases, they have such similar internal systems as humans. Advocates of animal testing believe performing experiments on animals can help scientists learn more about the human body. They believe such tests can help lead to medical advances for human beings, and they believe such practices are vital to science and the development of medicines and surgical techniques that can save human lives. However, some people believe such experiments are unnecessary and even cruel to the animals. Therefore, animal experiments are often quite controversial.

For medical research, studying animals can help scientists better understand the human body and how it works. Animals can also be used to test how safe a drug

is for humans to use. Even psychologists use animal testing to help humans. They can observe animal behavior under certain conditions. They can also study how animals learn to better understand how the human brain works.

Of course, animal research is met with much controversy. Not everyone believes animal research should be conducted, even if the research helps people. Some, however, feel the benefits are too great to stop the testing on animals. Still, others believe medical research should be allowed, but testing for things such as cosmetics and perfume is something that should not be done. One thing that either party can seem to agree on is that any testing that is done should be conducted so that the pain and distress for the animals involved is at a minimum.

Text Questions

1. Which part of the text best explains why some people are against animal testing?
 - a. the title
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. second paragraph
 - d. third paragraph
2. Why are animal experiments met with controversy?
 - a. People believe they are cruel and unnecessary.
 - b. People believe they occur too frequently.
 - c. People believe they are too expensive.
 - d. People believe only certain types of animals should be used in the experiments.
3. Which type of experiments seem to be the most controversial?
 - a. medical experiments
 - b. psychological experiments
 - c. experiments done for general research
 - d. testing for cosmetics and perfumes
4. Compare and contrast information by listing one reason why animal experiments should occur and one reason why animal experiments should not occur. Use only information from the text.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. Which is an antonym for the word *advocates* as it is used in the first paragraph?
 - a. supporters
 - b. believers
 - c. opposers
 - d. activists