

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

A signature campaign to stop the use of dogs in testing in India.

SAY 'NO' TO THE USE OF DOGS IN TESTING!



Immobilized and frightened beagles forced to inhale fumes of poisonous chemicals. While some will drop dead others will linger on- only to break into convulsions, cower and writhe in pain as they die a slow and silent death

Every pain killer and pesticide, drug and deodorant, air freshener and fumigant, repellent and roll-on , hair spray and heart valve-they have all been tested by way of horrific experiments in dogs, albeit being proven futile , inhumane and needless.

More than **3000** beagles suffer, die or are killed in over a dozen laboratories in India every year.

Dogs used in testing die when they are forced to inhale toxic gases or when they succumb to the 'Maximum Tolerated Dose' of the drug /pesticide force fed or injected into them in acute toxicity testing. In long duration chronic studies they will linger on as their bodies' battle the poison of the test substance given to them in low doses for months on end .

Helpless and defenceless, with no relief from the bitter pain, they are forced to endure, they cower on the cold floor in laboratories, cringing in fear for the next dose to come .For weeks and months on end they will writhe in pain with bleeding ulcers, breaking into convulsions and seizures as the poison destroys their bodies and minds. Slowly and surely they will turn moribund as their livers cease to function. Yet, some linger fighting death but only to be killed at the end of the study and their frail bodies hacked to pieces as they are autopsied. In non-terminal studies dogs are tested hundreds of times over.

Even as you read this, close to a thousand beagles are being tested upon with terribly poisonous fumigants and agrochemicals which are products of multinational companies outside India. And hundreds more are waiting in cold steel cages in solitary confinement to be tested on. Playful pups are being wrenched away from their mothers and are transported to laboratories across the country where they will be also be experimented on and will die when they are just nine months old.

More than 3000 beagles die in bitter agony in laboratories in India every year, for various products, drugs ,agrochemicals etc tested on them. Most products will never come back to India for the benefit of our health care system or agriculture .They are tested in India only because the cost of a dog test is less than half of what it would cost in the US / Europe/Japan.

More recently, neurologists and ethologists, working on dog sentience and cognition have proved that dogs have a level of sentience equivalent to a human child and a level of social cognition comparable to a preverbal human infant. The average dog intelligence is as sophisticated as that of a two and a half year old child.

Every dog owner will vouch that dogs are perceptive, cognitive, intuitive and capable of positive emotions of love and empathy. Now science has also substantiated this. On a scientific perspective the irrelevance of the dog test in studying the toxicity of pharmaceuticals and in long duration studies of pesticides (chronic) has been also demonstrated by several scientists.

Hence the use of dogs in testing is unscientific, inhumane and unethical and can no longer be justified.

We as a nation must raise our voices to put an end to this needless suffering and pain that thousands of dogs endure for humankind.

**If in reading this you have also heard their silent cries lend your voice by signing in here .
Our petition with a 100,000 signatures will be presented to the DRUG CONTROLLER GENERAL OF INDIA to stop the use of dogs in toxicity testing.**

You will agree that the laboratory is no place for Man's best friend!