

Animal testing: How much do you really know?



Most people know about animal testing and my guess is they are not particularly fond of the idea but how many people know the real facts and would they continue to buy from the companies that do it?

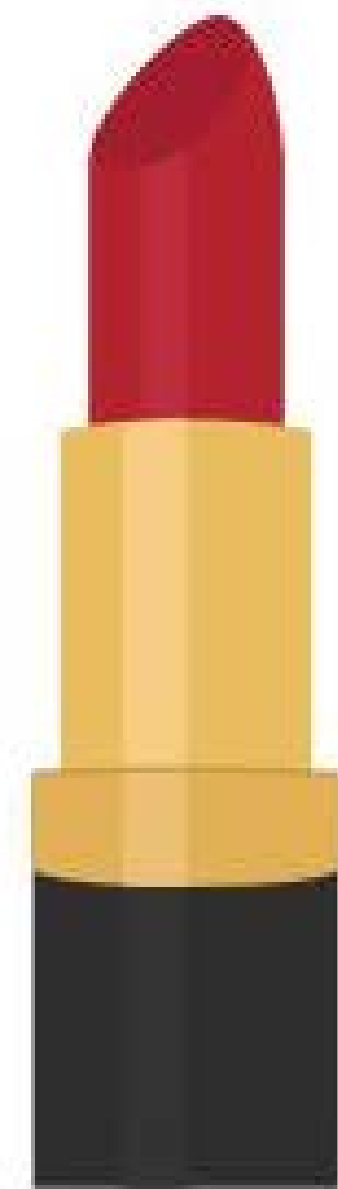
Since 2013 animal tested cosmetic products have been banned in the EU after animal lovers constantly cooked up a storm of protests. Campaigns have seen that over 30 countries now ban animal tested products. However, a loophole in the system means that some ingredients can still be tested. A lot of high profile brands such as Smashbox, Urban Decay and Too Faced cosmetics actually follow the rules and good morals and choose not to test on animals at all. Yet, some choose to use the loophole and continue to test their products on animals. Brands as big as MAC, Avon and Bobbi Brown feel the need to do this.

In the US over 100 million animals are abused each year



In China it is the law that any product that is going to be used by a human must be tested on animals before hand. This means that the brands that choose to not test their products on animals are not allowed to sell their products in China. If the company choose to sell their product in china, the company doesn't have to do the testing themselves - so their image remains in tact. Cosmetic company Benefit says of their animal testing policy: 'Benefit continues to strongly support and favour alternative testing and is committed to following all animal testing laws and regulations in order to ensure our products' safety for the end consumer.' In china, more than 300,000 animals are used each year but even though the EU has the new ban in place, the UK is 3rd on the list of who uses the most animals. In the UK around 4 million animals are tested on each year and 49% of those experiments were done in universities. However, the US is by far in front. In the US over 100 million animals are burned, crippled, poisoned and abused in labs every year. Even animals that are protected under the AWA can be abused and tortured; the law doesn't require the use of valid alternatives to animals, even if they are available.

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Animal tested cosmetics may be banned in the UK but UK law still requires and regulates experiments on animals. Any new drug must be tested on at least two different species of live mammal, one of which must be a large non-rodent. Rodents are the most used animals in experiments - 84% of experiments are done on them. Its then 12% fish, amphibians and reptiles; 2.1% large mammals; 1.4% small mammals; 0.3% dogs and cats and finally 0.1% primates. So, still feel like buying from these companies? In my opinion, you're not a bad person if you do. After all you're not the one conducting these experiments. But, maybe you might want to visit an animal shelter every now and then.

Visit www.peta.org.uk for more information.