



## Animal experimentation statistics

The international trend in animal use seems to be increasing. The surge is believed to be due to increased use of genetically modified animals, for which there is a very high incidence of “wastage” (whereby modified animals do not display the trait required by researchers and are therefore discarded).

What is particularly disturbing in our case is that Australia uses more animals per capita than other nations including the UK. This suggests that Australia sadly lags well behind other countries in terms of embracing non-animal alternatives, has no commitment to the 3R’s principle (Replace, Reduce and Refine) and continues with archaic methods despite the growing evidence that non-animal technologies are far more humane and provide more accurate and scientifically-valid data.

	Human population (July 2007)	No. of animals used	Animals used per capita	% Increase from previous year
European Union	490,426,000 <sup>1</sup>	12.1 million (2005)	0.025	3.2% <sup>2</sup>
United Kingdom	60,776,000 <sup>3</sup>	2.89 million (2005)	0.048	1.2% <sup>4</sup>
New Zealand	4,116,000 <sup>5</sup>	318,489 (2006)	0.077	21% <sup>6</sup>
Australia	20,440,000 <sup>7</sup>	5.3 million (2005)	0.259	- 18.33%

2005 figures for Australia have dropped since the previous year, however while 2006 statistics have not yet been released by all states, preliminary data received to date indicates that there will be a significant increase in the next reported year. Western Australia, for example, has quadrupled from 513,747 (2005) to 2,181,043 (2006), and South Australian figures more than doubled from 150,747 (2005) to 378,889 (2006).

Not all states provide as much detail as others regarding the purpose and severity of procedures and so it’s difficult to provide an accurate account, however the following breakdowns give some indication of the current picture.

The following tables are comprised of the latest available statistics of animal use in research and teaching in Australia. These statistics should be used for general purposes only.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/ee.html>

<sup>2</sup> BUAV press release, “BUAV Short Statement on new EU animal experiment statistics.” 8/11/07

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/uk.html>

<sup>4</sup> BUAV Fact sheet – UK Animal Experiments Statistics 2005

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/nz.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA0709/S00164.htm>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/as.html>



*Australian Association for Humane Research Inc.*

As at the time of posting, Queensland and Northern Territory statistics had not been obtained. In the 2004 year, these totaled 589,047, which suggest the national 2005 figure to be approx. 5.3 million animals.

Figures will be updated as they become available

Type of animals	Vic	NSW	SA	Tas	ACT	WA	Total
Mouse	362,520	179,245	31,538	2,281	85,340	240,740	901,664
Rat	40,741	36,609	9,115	1,813	3,157	31,768	123,203
Guinea Pig	9,921	2,794	1,044	4	228	184	14,175
Rabbit	2,504	7,519	738	10	68	47	10,886
Other lab animals	1,018	780	305			41	2,144
Cat	425	1,099	160		8	230	1,922
Dog	1,308	3,194	100		11	861	5,474
Other domestic		3					3
Sheep	34,253	112,253	30,679	7,251	397	21,561	206,394
Cattle	24,978	21,236	943	722		1,088	48,967
Pig	7,466	3,977	1,264		9	3,292	16,008
Horse/donkey	5,829	4,060	275			3,046	13,210
Other stock animals	739	292	848			22	1,901
Native mammals	7,845	48,078	4,842	2,540	47	10,871	74,223
Exotic 'feral' animals	199	5,016	890	117	143	12,183	18,548
Primates	140	207				50	397
Domestic fowl	227,635	624,205	8,855		713	2,059	863,467
Other birds	58,733	238,405	26,635	51,501	356	14,026	389,656
Reptiles	2,116	12,978	7,607	1,334	347	9,374	33,756
Fish	748,963	995,890*	23,325	36,457	174	94,785	1,899,594
Amphibians	5,404		1,090	419	605		7,518
Other aquatic animals	17,599		494	7,227		67,519	92,839
Other	4	266					270
Totals	1,560,340	2,298,106	150,747	111,676	91,603	513,747	4,726,219

\* includes all aquatic animals

Note that ACT and WA did not provide a breakdown of purpose and severity of experiments. The following tables will therefore not reflect the same total as that of species used.

Purpose of project	Vic	NSW	SA	Tas	ACT	WA	Total
Understanding human or animal biology	350,991	181,473	42,020	29,558			604,042
Maintenance and improvement of human or animal health and welfare	331,551	144,019	23,616	8,378			507,564
Improvement of animal management or production	700,027	371,628	42,907	65,607			1,180,169
Production of biological products		36,186					36,186
Diagnostic procedures		2,221					2,221
Achievement of educational objectives	38,527	645,751	20,797	5,410		72,595	783,080
Environmental study	139,244	916,828	21,407	2,723			1,080,202
Unspecified					91,603	441,152	532,755
Totals	1,560,340	2,298,106	150,747	111,676	91,603	513,747	4,726,219



Severity of procedure	Vic	NSW	SA	Tas	ACT	WA	Total
Observational studies involving minor interference	332,951	1,387,585	63,216	52,200			1,835,952
Animal unconscious without recovery	161,712	115,517	28,742	25,634			331,605
Minor conscious intervention	676,449	594,308	19,982	24,568			1,315,307
Minor operative procedures with recovery	234,769	36,565	8,471	456			280,261
Surgery with recovery	32,014	23,234	3,794	185			59,227
Minor physiological challenge	35,932	59,444	17,271	1,504			114,151
Major physiological challenge	85,714	16,385	7,756	6,997			116,852
Death as an end point	799	47,652	1,515	132			50,098
Production of genetically modified animals		17,416					17,416
Unspecified					91,603	513,747	605,350
Totals	1,560,340	2,298,106	150,747	111,676	91,603	513,747	4,726,219

**Sources:**

**Vic.**

*Summary of Statistics of Animal Experimentation, Victoria. Report Number 23. 1 January, 2005 to 31 December, 2005.*

**NSW**

*Animal Research Review Panel NSW Annual Report 2004/05.*

**SA**

*Department for Environment & Heritage - South Australian Government. Teaching and Research using animals in South Australia 2005.*

**Tas.**

*Animal Research statistics Tasmania Annual Report, Report Number 10: 1 April 2005 to 31 December 2005.*

Animal Health and Welfare Branch, Dept. of Primary Industries and Water.

The report covers 9 months only due to the reporting period being changed to a calendar year in order to be in line with other states reporting.

**ACT**

Jon Stanhope MLA, Chief Minister ACT, Personal correspondence 26 April 2007

**WA**

Use/Supply of animals for scientific purposes (research and teaching). Annual statistical return for the calendar year 2005, Dept. of Local Government and Regional Development, WA.