



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

17th November 2009

Animal experiments rise in Northern Ireland

The **BUAV** has expressed its concern following a worrying 15% increase in the number of animal experiments carried out in Northern Ireland. The newly available statistics show that in 2008, **17,875** experiments took place compared to **15,525** in 2007. There was a large increase in the number of mice (**54%** total of animals used) and cattle (**13%** total of animals used). In 2008, **9,229** mice, **1,198** rats, **3,121** domestic fowl, **2,047** cattle, **93** rabbits and **38** horses/donkeys were used. Of those experiments carried out, **77%** were done with no anaesthetic.

On a more positive note, the **BUAV** welcomes the fact that, as in previous years, no non-human primates were used in research during 2008. In addition, no testing on animals occurred for cosmetics, household products, chemicals, pesticides, tobacco or for education and training. The **BUAV** is calling on Northern Ireland to exercise its own powers to make policy decision about animal experiments and ensure animals are never used for these purposes. However, the **BUAV** is concerned about the re-use of cats and dogs in veterinary research. In 2008, 8 cats were used in 42 procedures and 6 dogs were used in 140 procedures.

BUAV's Senior Parliamentary Officer, Jenny Gowen states: "Animal experiments is a devolved issue in Northern Ireland, officials and ministers have the power to impose stricter controls on the use of animals and provide more transparent information for the public. Given the rise in animal experiments last year we are disappointed they do not seem to be taking this opportunity."

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