

# FRAME

Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments



## Don't forget the animals killed for museum collections, says science charity FRAME

To mark World Animal Day on October 4 FRAME (Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments) is highlighting the plight of animals killed to provide biological samples for museums.

FRAME took up the cause after hearing from a biologist who was concerned over potentially millions of animals caught and killed each year to be placed in museum collections.

Many of the specimens are rare and endangered species but they are collected, killed and stored so that researchers can study them closely in museums and laboratories. The museum worker called on FRAME to help her publicise the fact that animals of all kinds, including lizards, birds, small mammals and insects, are killed each year.

Her letter to FRAME said: "Scientists, even with today's digital photography, insist on collecting specimens, indiscriminately killing, and in some cases using very primitive methods, such as drowning in alcohol, the particular species they are studying. Some of these animals are extremely rare and endangered, often under enormous pressure from development and agriculture.

"Once these specimens are taken, their genes are permanently removed from the gene pool. For smaller animals such as water beetles and other invertebrates, the sheer numbers killed and the methods utilised, beggars belief and all in the name of science. When one takes into consideration all the other scientists from all over the world the numbers become mind numbing."

**FRAME's ultimate aim is the elimination of the need to use animals in any kind of medical or scientific procedures.** So FRAME is calling on museums to consider carefully whether it is necessary to hold so many examples of so many kinds of animal within their stores before arranging for any further collections to be made.

Chairman Michael Balls said: "It was once assumed that all biology students would carry out a number of dissections each year but it is now considered unacceptable that thousands of animals should be killed for that when filmed demonstrations are just as effective.

"In the same way it will one day be realised that excessive culling of animals just to provide museum specimens is wrong. Photographic records can provide much of the information that museum specimens can and are more easily shared. Curators should consider carefully whether the collections they hold need to be as extensive as they are before they arrange to obtain new specimens. "

**Ends**

Anne Jeffery  
**Communications Officer**  
[anne@frame.org.uk](mailto:anne@frame.org.uk)  
0115 958 4740  
Russell & Burch House  
96-98 North Sherwood Street  
Nottingham NG1 4EE

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[www.frame.org.uk](http://www.frame.org.uk)

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#### NOTES:

- Full text of the letter can be found at <http://bit.ly/museumletter>
- World Animal Day is on October 4 <http://bit.ly/WorldAnimalDay>
- FRAME (Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments) is a scientific charity established in 1969.
- **FRAME's ultimate aim is the elimination of the need to use animals in any kind of medical or scientific procedures.**
  
- **FRAME is holding a seminar called Drug Discovery and Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at the Royal Society in London on 19 November 2009. The meeting will bring together prominent figures from academia and industry to discuss what changes need to be made to optimise the use of new technologies to replace animals in drug development in the future.**
  
- FRAME considers that the current scale of live animal experimentation is unacceptable and should not be allowed to continue.
- Research funded by FRAME has made a significant contribution to reducing the number of animals used in research and testing.
- FRAME advocates the use of alternative methods, referred to as the Three Rs approach – Replace, Reduce, Refine.
- The Three Rs concept embraces the *replacement* of animal procedures with alternative methods, the *refinement* of procedures so that the suffering of any animals necessarily used is minimised, and *reduction* of the number of animals used to an unavoidable minimum.
- FRAME promotes a moderate, but determined, approach by encouraging a realistic consideration of the ethical and scientific issues involved in the use of laboratory animals, and the adoption of the Three Rs strategy.