



Project Chimps

Activity Name: A Look at the Animal Welfare Act & Animal Testing

Learning Objectives: SKL1, SKL2, S1L1, S2L1, S5L1, S7L1, S7L4, L6-8WHST1

Grade/Age Level: K-8

Estimated Time: 3-4 hours onsite w/ tour, 60-90 min. in classroom/virtual

Materials: tv/internet, laminated pictures of animals, white board w/ magnets or other type of board to attach pictures to

Methods: review, discuss, pledge, write, debate, explore, search, identify

Goal: Introduce students to the Animal Welfare Act and how it relates to animal testing. Discuss the Leaping Bunny program to assist students in making educated decisions and empowering them to shop cruelty free.

Background: Introduce the Animal Welfare Act and how it relates to animal testing.

- **Animal Welfare Act:**

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) became a federal law in 1966 and was designed to help protect animals. The Act set standards for the humane care and treatment for certain animals that are exhibited to the public, sold for use as pets, used in research, or transported commercially. Facilities using regulated animals legally were directed to provide their animals with adequate housing, sanitation, nutrition, water and veterinary care. In addition, it was required that animals be protected from extreme weather and temperatures. The original Animal Welfare Act was a milestone law that set basic standards for many animals, but it had loopholes. The law was amended numerous times over the course of the years to try and close those loopholes.

One loophole is concerning the animals covered under the act. While many animals are included under the protection of the AWA, it; unfortunately, does not cover every type of animal used in every type of activity. The following animals are **not** covered under the AWA:

- ❖ farm animals
- ❖ coldblooded species
- ❖ horses (not used for research purposes)
- ❖ fish
- ❖ invertebrates
- ❖ birds
- ❖ rats



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❖ mice

- **Animal Testing**

- The Animal Welfare Act was the first of its kind to describe what exactly it meant to provide adequate care, food, and shelter to animals. This law made strides in the overall care of many laboratory animals, chimpanzees included.
- While most animals used in biomedical research are covered under the Animal Welfare Act, there are gaps in the law which leave some animals uncovered. Ninety-five percent of animals used in cosmetic testing are not included under AWA protection because they are on the above list. Cosmetic testing uses a large number of rats, mice, birds, reptiles, and fish. The 2002 amendment to AWA called for a report on the number of birds, rats and mice and requested a report on how these animals could be afforded the same protection as others; however, as of this date that report has not been completed and some of the most often used animals in cosmetic testing are still not protected.

- **Leaping Bunny Program**

- The Leaping Bunny Program was developed by the Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics in 1996 to bring a standardization to products “not tested on animals”
- Before this there were many different companies using different logos to show products “not tested on animals”
- The “Leaping Bunny” logo is an internationally recognized logo that people can look for to ensure that the products they are buying are “not tested on animals”
- The coalition works with companies on behalf of consumers to make shopping for animal-friendly products easier and more trustworthy.
- To see a full list of companies that do not test on animals, visit their website or download their app.

Procedures:

1. **Intro Video.** Watch video: “Take the Leap! Shop compassionately.”
 - a. <https://www.leapingbunny.org/video>
2. **Discuss.** Have a discussion of:
 - The Animal Welfare Act
 - How the AWA relates to animal testing
 - The Leaping Bunny Program
3. **Tour.** If onsite- take your tour!



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4. **Activities.** Complete one or more of the activities below. All lesson plans can be shared to complete more activities back in the classroom post field trip.
5. **Assessment.** Discuss the assessment questions below.

Activities:

- **Identify.** (all) Identify which animals are protected under the AWA.
 - Look at [pictures of animals](#).
 - Choose and attach to board animals protected under the AWA.
 - What animals are left that are not covered under the AWA?
 - Does it make sense for AWA to cover some animals and not others?
 - Should all animals be covered under the AWA?
- **Explore.** (k-6) Look at different pictures of animals and color those covered under the AWA on this fun [Who's Covered?](#) Activity.
- **Search.** (k-6) Review some key AWA words and complete this fun [Word Search!](#)
- **Write.** (6-12) Write a letter to the USDA and give your opinion of the AWA and how you think it could be improved.
- **Debate.** (6-12) Split your class into 2 groups.
 - ½ of your group will represent the USDA and the AWA.
 - ½ of your group will represent a group of individuals who wants more regulations on the testing of animals.
 - Debate whether the current law is enough and should be left as is or if the current law should be changed to include all animals that are being used in research, regardless of species.

Or:

- Only 8% of cosmetics tested on animals have been DEEMED safe by the FDA.
 - Debate whether cosmetic animal testing should be done at all if only 8% of items that are tested on animal are deemed safe.

Assessment: Discuss the following questions.

- What role does the Animal Welfare Act play in the lives of animal's being used in different types of research?
- Does AWA cover all animals being used in research?
 - What are some of the animals covered by AWA?
 - What animals are left out of AWA?
- Do you think it is a fair and just law? Why or why not?



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- If you had the chance to change anything about this law, what would you change?

Extension Activities:

1. What can you do?

- a. Download the app so you always have an updated list of the Leaping Bunny certified companies!
- b. Pledge here to go cruelty free:
 - i. <https://www.leapingbunny.org/take-action/pledge>
- c. Spread the word to friends, family, etc. to only buy cruelty free products

Conclusion: Even though the Animal Welfare Act is a law designed to protect animals, it does not protect all animals. While most animals used in medical research are protected, many of the animals used in cosmetic testing are not. That being said, the AWA does help to protect those animals that are covered.

Notes to Instructor:

- Use your judgment to adapt lesson to your age group.
- <https://www.leapingbunny.org/>
- [Printable Animal Outlines](#)
- [Assessment Questions](#)
- [Assessment Questions- Elementary](#)
- Thank you for being a part of our community! By visiting us on field trips, participating in our lessons virtually and spreading the word about the need for Project Chimps, you and your students are helping in the process to get all research chimps to sanctuary.