

Research into the BCG vaccination against tuberculosis (TB) has also been adapted to develop a vaccination for wild badgers, which may prevent the need for them to be culled in order to stop them passing TB to cattle.



Rinderpest was an infectious viral disease of cattle and some other ungulates-including buffalo, large antelope, deer, giraffes, wildebeest, and warthogs-that used to kill around 80-90% of infected animals. A vaccination programme led to the official eradication of rinderpest in 2011.



ANIMAL RESEARCH FOR ANIMALS: THE USE OF ANIMALS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

ANIMAL RESEARCH FACTS

It is illegal in the UK and Europe to use animals to test cosmetics or their ingredients

It is illegal in the UK and Europe to use an animal in research if there is a viable non-animal method

All animal research in the UK is regulated and inspected by the Home Office

It is a legal requirement that all potential new medicines intended for human use are tested in two species of mammal before they are given to human volunteers in clinical trials

The law stipulates that all potential veterinary medicines must be safety tested in animals



Thanks to animal research, vets have access to medicines like worming tablets and vaccines for rabies, distemper and kennel cough.

Far from being removed from animal research, pets, farm animals and animals in the wild all benefit from research using animals. All the veterinary medicines available to us today have been developed and tested using animals. This research has also been instrumental in finding medicines for human use that can then be used for animals as well.

CASE STUDY: MEDICINES FOR PETS

Dogs are routinely vaccinated against many diseases using medicines developed and tested using animals. These include the often fatal canine parvovirus (vaccine found by testing on dogs), canine distemper (vaccine found by testing on ferrets) and leptospirosis (vaccine found by testing on dogs and humans).

Cats are routinely vaccinated against feline infectious enteritis, feline calicivirus and the feline herpes virus. All of these treatments used cats (and sometimes mice) in their development and testing.

CASE STUDY: THE PET PASSPORT

Animal research helps to keep your pets safe as they travel in Europe and beyond. The Pet Passport scheme means that vaccinated, microchipped pets can travel in and out of the country with their owners without needing to be quarantined on their return to the UK.



The rabies vaccine was initially developed through research using rabbits. An oral form of the vaccine means that wild animals can also now be vaccinated.

Dogs also need to be treated for tapeworms in order to qualify for a Pet Passport. All domestic animals are at risk from parasitic worms and should be treated regularly. Animal research has given us a wide range of different worming medicines, some of which are also used to treat humans.



CASE STUDY: PROTECTING FARM ANIMALS

Much research is done to protect animals from disease, particularly by vaccination.

Pasteurellosis, a severe respiratory disease, one affected one in five cattle. Developing a vaccine involved research using about 450 calves. This vaccine has since been given to hundreds of millions of calves and prevented many millions of calves getting the disease.

Without animal research it would be impossible to develop and test effective new treatments for animal diseases.

CASE STUDY: MEDICINES TO TREAT ANIMALS AS WELL AS HUMANS

Type 1 diabetes was successfully treated using insulin in the 1920s. Before then, there was no treatment and patients died shortly after developing the condition. The research that led to this discovery relied on dogs and then rabbits. But it's not just humans that benefit from insulin—around one in every 500 dogs and cats get diabetes. Guinea pigs and hamsters can also suffer from the disease and need insulin to stay alive.



Although insulin injections enable people and animals with diabetes to live normal lives, there is still no cure. Continued research will help find better treatments and provide a better understanding of the disease which may ultimately lead to prevention or cure for both humans and animals.

CASE STUDY: RESEARCH TO BENEFIT WILD ANIMALS

With all the focus on the human victims of the recent Ebola crisis in Africa, a lesser-known fact is that an estimated one third of the world's gorilla and chimpanzee populations have been wiped out by Ebola since the 1990s.

Research into promising potential vaccines and treatments for Ebola have involved monkeys, and it is hoped that the new human medicines will also be able to protect great apes in the wild.

