

**Forum:** Environmental Committee

**Issue:** The question of implementing stronger animal rights in regard to their use in product testing and cloning

**Student Officer:** Maria Pandria

**Position:** Deputy President

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## INTRODUCTION

One of the main global issues that UN Member states tend to have vastly different policies on is that of animal rights and welfare. While some countries impose strict laws regarding the mistreatment of animals, others remain reluctant towards creating domestic legislation which protects the rights of animals in modern society and biotechnology.

Animal testing both in the cosmetics and healthcare industries has been a flaming issue over the past years. That is due to the ever-increasing recent technological development, which creates the need for test subjects that can be experimented on. Cosmetic products and various sorts of medicine require the conduction of extensive research before being safely administered to people; thus, animals undertake the role of test subjects for new experimental products. As expected, however, the experimentation on animals with such unsafe products can be detrimental.

Another question that often arises regarding animal rights and welfare is that of animal cloning. Over the past century -though only successfully in recent years- scientists have made great achievements in the field of cloning. Animal cloning is currently feasible and considered by experts as a solution to a multitude of global issues, ranging from alimento shortages to lack of organ transplants.

It is, however, a common phenomenon that cloned animals and their surrogate mothers often face mistreatment during the process of animal cloning. The cloning procedure may prove to heavily influence the well-being of animals on both psychological, as well as physical level, by means such as, but not limited to strenuous reproduction procedures and unpremeditated development of unnatural physical characteristics as the animal ages.

Thus, the question of implementing stronger animal rights in regard to the use of animals in bio-ethically unjustified proceedings, such as product testing and cloning, shall be addressed globally. The advantages and disadvantages of both biotechnological procedures shall be examined, with the underlying prospect of ensuring the well-being and equally rightful treatment of all animals on a worldwide scale.

## DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

### Animal Testing<sup>1</sup>

The term “animal testing” refers to procedures performed on living animals for purposes of research into basic biology and diseases, assessing the effectiveness of new medicinal, cosmetic, and household products on human health. All animal tests have the potential to cause the animals physical as well as psychological distress and suffering by subjecting them to various imminently harmful procedures.

### Animal Cloning<sup>2</sup>

The artificial production of one or more apparently perfect copies of an existing animal by inserting a copy of its DNA into a stem cell and breeding a surrogate mother with it. The cloned animals are often born with unnatural malfunctions, such as a reduction in their normal life span.

### Stem Cell<sup>3</sup>

Stem Cells are undifferentiated cells that can turn into specific cells, as the body needs them.

### Livestock<sup>4</sup>

The mass of animals kept and raised in farms for use and profit.

### Animal Rights<sup>5</sup>

The right of animals to be free from exploitation, domination and abuse by humans.

### Animal Welfare<sup>6</sup>

The state of the individual animal regarding attempts to cope with its environment, including the absence of physical and psychological suffering, as well as the satisfaction of its biological, physiological, ethological and social needs.

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<sup>1</sup> "About Animal Testing." *Humane Society International*, [www.hsi.org/news-media/about/](http://www.hsi.org/news-media/about/)

<sup>2</sup> "Animal Cloning." *TheFreeDictionary.com*, [www.medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/animal+cloning](http://www.medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/animal+cloning)

<sup>3</sup> "Stem Cells: Sources, Types, and Uses." *Medical and Health Information*, [www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/323343](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/323343)

<sup>4</sup> "Definition of LIVESTOCK." *Dictionary by Merriam-Webster: America's Most-trusted Online Dictionary*, [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/livestock](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/livestock)

<sup>5</sup> "What is Meant by Animal Rights?" *Friends of Animals / Animal Rights*, [www.friendsofanimals.org/program/what-is-meant-by-animal-rights/](http://www.friendsofanimals.org/program/what-is-meant-by-animal-rights/)

<sup>6</sup> *Global Animal Law GAL Association*, [www.globalanimallaw.org/downloads/Folder-UNCAHP.pdf](http://www.globalanimallaw.org/downloads/Folder-UNCAHP.pdf)

### **Medicinal Products<sup>7</sup>**

A substance or combination of substances that is intended to treat, prevent or diagnose a disease, or to restore, correct or modify physiological functions by exerting a pharmacological, immunological or metabolic action.

### **Cosmetics<sup>8</sup>**

Articles intended to be applied to the human body for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness or altering the appearance without affecting the body's structure or functions.

### **Cruelty-Free Product<sup>9</sup>**

A product that is cruelty free means that it was not tested on animals in any way, during any point of production.

### **Bioethics<sup>10</sup>**

Bioethics is the term that refers to the application of ethics to the biological sciences, medicine, nursing, and health care. The practical ethical questions raised in everyday health care are generally in the realm of bioethics.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Animal Rights Worldwide**

The rights of animal species differ greatly on a global scale. Aspects of animal nature such as sentience are not recognized as valid and existing in the vast majority of countries worldwide and animal suffering is only legally condemnable in few nations. Animal abuse and harm is, in fact, domestically legal in a number of UN Member States, since in such countries there is no compulsory national law, civil code provision or constitutional principle which explicitly prohibits it. In the aforementioned kind of nations, animals are viewed as inferior beings, deserving of only limited rights and protection in various instances. The mental, as well as physical health and well-being of animals are not officially recognized as primary concerns regarding their treatment by man. Failure to abide by animal-protection UN treaties is also a common phenomenon globally, with Member States showing disregard towards International initiatives regarding animal rights in modern society. Thus, bio-

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<sup>7</sup> "Medicinal Product." European Medicines Agency, [www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/medicinal-product](http://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/medicinal-product)

<sup>8</sup> "Cosmetic Overview for Imported Products." U.S. Food and Drug Administration, [www.fda.gov/industry/regulated-products/cosmetics-overview](http://www.fda.gov/industry/regulated-products/cosmetics-overview)

<sup>9</sup> "What Does Cruelty Free Mean?" EarthHero, [www.earthhero.com/what-does-cruelty-free-mean/](http://www.earthhero.com/what-does-cruelty-free-mean/)

<sup>10</sup> "Bioethics." TheFreeDictionary.com, [www.medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/bioethics](http://www.medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/bioethics)

ethically unjustified proceedings such as animal experimentation, testing and cloning can currently commence with limited or no restrictions in multiple nations around the globe.

### **Product Testing on Animals**

Ever since ancient times, the use of animals as test subjects has been the most prominent way of conducting medicinal research regarding the safety of a product before administration to humans. Nowadays, a great abundance of medicinal as well as cosmetic products has become available for public usage solely after extensive experimentation on animal subjects has been conducted. Animals undergo the process of being injected and fed with various substances, as well as being meticulously monitored and re-experimented on, as the product-testing procedure advances.

### **Testing of Medicinal Products**

Animal experimentation for medicinal products has been the key-factor to various life-changing medical discoveries, such as groundbreaking medical procedures, majorly significant common-use drugs and most vaccines. Medical breakthroughs such as, for example, the effectiveness of penicillin as an antibiotic (1940) and the development of a vaccine against cervical cancer (2010), were both conducted through the method of experimentation on mice and rabbits accordingly. As a matter of fact, such outstanding discoveries, as well as a multitude of others that were achieved through the use of animal testing, have resulted in medical advances from which humanity has largely benefitted as a whole.

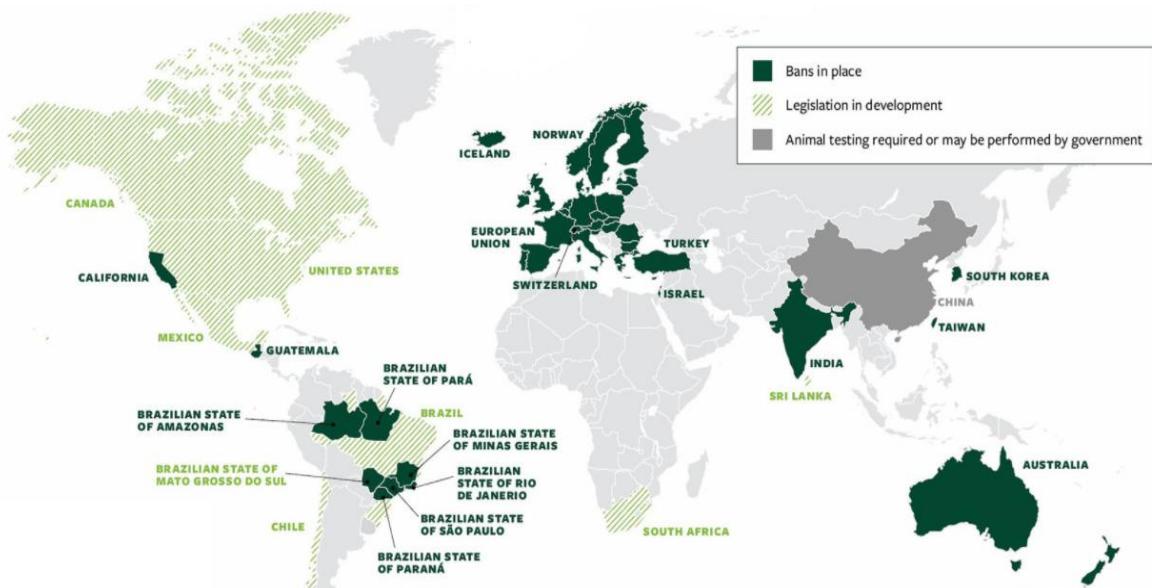
Nonetheless, alarmingly high amounts of animals have been terribly mistreated, genetically modified, injured and killed in masses during the process of medicinal research. Scientists and medical researchers nowadays make extensive efforts in order to carefully select animal species as test subjects, with the prospect of ensuring their safety to the utmost possible degree. Such efforts are, however, often deemed fruitless, since experimental products frequently have adverse effects on the test subjects' health, welfare and lifespan - the current estimate for animal test unpredictability reaches an astounding 96%. Consequently, though grand medical discoveries have groundbreakingly influenced modern medicine, the high uncertainty revolving around the welfare of test subjects tarnishes the excellence of animal experimentation as the prominent lab-trial method. Thus, worldwide efforts for the discovery of product-testing methods which do not require the involvement of living organisms, such as animals, have been executed over the past decades.

## Testing of cosmetic products and various products of secondary importance

Apart from medical research, animal test subjects are vastly used for research on cosmetic, alimental and various chemical-based products. The vast majority of such commodities for use on a daily basis have only come to fruition due to extensive experimentation on animals. Renowned cosmetic companies, prominent enterprises in the aliment sector as well as an abundance of multinational corporations with various kinds of output actively use animal testing as their main way of acquiring product-safety insurance.

There has recently been a divide between companies such as the aforementioned ones and cruelty-free corporations, which nowadays completely refrain from the usage of animals as test subjects. Mass-Media exposure regarding the issue of animal testing has been ground for defamation, denigration and income decrease for non-cruelty-free companies.

Nowadays, cosmetic-testing on animals has only been legally banned in 36 out of 193 UN Member States, as well as in few independent state areas. In other member states anti-testing legislation is still under development. On the contrary, however, other nations have no official legislation regarding the protection of animals in cosmetic-testing - numerous countries even lack legislation regarding animal welfare in general. Multilateral organizations such as Cruelty-Free International have also launched a number of educational, as well as activistic campaigns regarding the ban of animal testing.



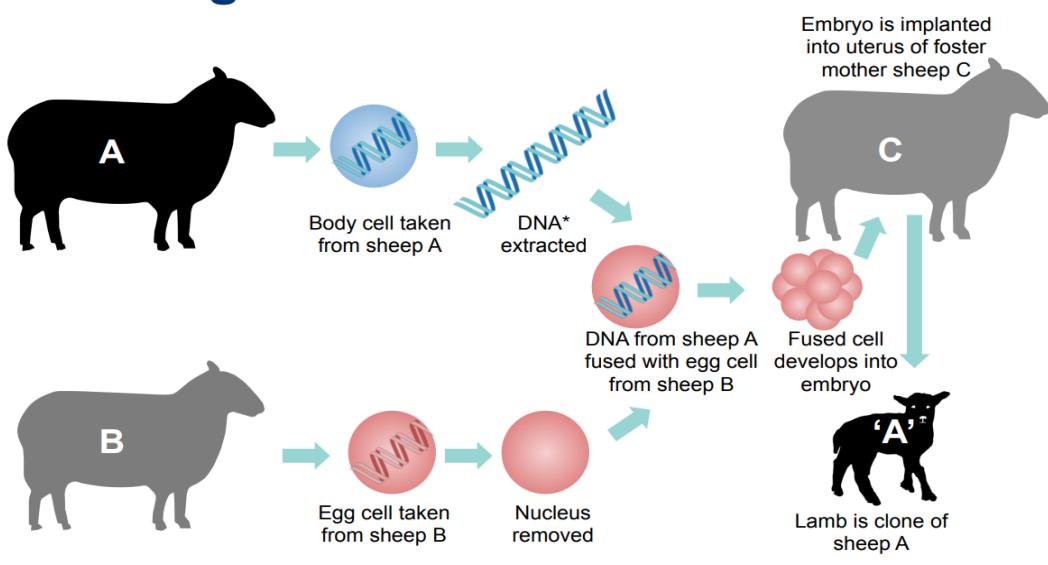
<sup>11</sup>Figure 1: Be Cruelty-Free Campaign

<sup>11</sup> "Be Cruelty-Free Campaign." *Humane Society International*, [www.hsi.org/issues/be-cruelty-free/](http://www.hsi.org/issues/be-cruelty-free/)

## Animal Cloning

To clone an animal means to create an exact copy of said animal through the following process: A cell that bears genetic information (DNA) is extracted from the animal and placed into an unfertilized egg cell of another female animal of the same species, from which the DNA has already been removed. After artificial simulation and placement into a surrogate mother animal, the fertilized egg cell starts developing into a normal embryo and is later born as an animal identical to the one, from which the DNA was officially extracted. Thus, an exact clone is created.

## Cloning animals



<sup>12</sup>Figure 2: How the cloning of animals takes place

## Uses of Animal Cloning

Scientists have conducted extensive research in the field of animal cloning with the prospect of it developing into a biotechnological discovery that is to the great benefit of humanity. Estimations prove that mass animal cloning could eventually significantly minimize problems such as global food insecurity. Cloning creates the possibility of exact

<sup>12</sup> The Largest Animal Welfare Charity in the UK / RSPCA, [www.rspca.org.uk/documents/1494939/7712578/Cloning+animals.pdf/6e68763a-4a55-9448-263f-63c271e6e39a?t=1584526172149](http://www.rspca.org.uk/documents/1494939/7712578/Cloning+animals.pdf/6e68763a-4a55-9448-263f-63c271e6e39a?t=1584526172149)

replication of any animal; animals which exhibit the best performance in alimentary production could, therefore, be mass-cloned. The aforementioned would result in an increase in food production, since it would constitute the creation of an entire generation of highly productive animals - an example would be the replication of a cow that produces significantly more milk than average. Thus, a decrease in alimentary shortage through the means of livestock cloning could accordingly minimize global food insecurity.

Furthermore, the process of cloning animals with desirable traits is applicable to service animals. The replication of capable animals which due to extensive training have attained valuable features, such as advanced hearing, smell and hyper-awareness would create equally competent offspring. An example would be the cloning of skillful sniffer and service dogs, which would aid crime investigators and the disabled accordingly.

Another aspect of animal cloning is the potential to attain significant scientific and biomedical knowledge throughout the cloning process. The genetical alteration of cells, which is the key element of animal cloning, has constituted ground for further research in the field. According to scientists, the cloning of animal stem cells could influence biomedical discoveries such as the successful transplantation of animal organs into human bodies as well as the cloning of human organs and organisms. Cloned stem cells could also later be used for the treatment of incurable diseases, such as heart problems and diabetes. It is a common phenomenon that the human body automatically rejects foreign organisms when implanted with them. Thus, scientists hope that the aforementioned rejection of implanted organisms will be minimized, if those organisms are indeed exact clones of the recipient body's own stem cells.

Though still in early experimental stages, mass cloning of animals is, therefore, expected to allow the conduction of extensive research on various aspects of cloning and its alternative uses. Such experimental procedures would initially be conducted on animals, before eventually being administered to humans as well, if proven to be safe and effective.

### **The case of Dolly the sheep**

Undeniably, the most distinctive case of animal cloning would be the case of one of the first mammals ever cloned. Conducted in 1996, after 227 attempts the cloning of a female sheep called Dolly came to fruition in the Roslin institute, Scotland. Dolly was the first ever mammal to be cloned from a six-year-old adult stem cell and born through a surrogate mother, an achievement immensely groundbreaking for global biomedical standards, proving that stem cells could indeed be used for the creation of an exact copy of the animal they derive from.

Along with astounding success, however, came realizations regarding the implications of cloning on the quality of life that the animal itself experiences. After the medical analysis of Dolly's DNA it was discovered that her telomeres (molecules that protect the DNA from damage) were significantly shorter than those of non-cloned sheep as young as her. Thus, Dolly was diagnosed with accelerated aging and weaknesses that were solely

typical for older sheep. The aforementioned implications were the result of Dolly's DNA deriving from a six-year-old sheep, the stem cells of which already carried the characteristics of an older sheep, whose organism had undergone the expected damage that comes with aging. Later on, Dolly suffered from premature arthritis at a young age, as well as other health problems that are normally results of aging. In 2003, Dolly was prematurely euthanized due to a form of lung cancer that had severely infected her weakened organism.

### **Negative implications of Animal Cloning on surrogate mothers and cloned infants**

As a matter of fact, animal cloning is a procedure that causes significant suffering to animals. The unnatural extraction of egg cells, as well as their implantation in surrogate mothers, are both conducted through long-lasting, borderline tortuous surgical procedures, which inflict much stress and discomfort in the animals involved. Surrogate mothers also have to endure an increasingly painful birthing procedure, since cloned infants tend to be heavier and larger than their non-cloned counterparts. Furthermore, the mortality rates during both pregnancy, the birthing procedure and infancy are significantly high for both surrogate mothers and cloned offspring - Dolly was, for example, the sole successful attempt at the Roslin institute amongst 277 others. Even nowadays, success rates have only reached 10-20% of attempted embryo transfer processes and pregnancies. Life-long suffering and premature death are also closely associated with animal cloning, for the low percentage that indeed survive past the state of infancy.

## **MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED**

### **United States of America**

Regarding the issue of product testing on animals, the United States of America has shown hesitation towards either a national ban of animal testing or the implementation of stricter regulatory measures on animal experimentation. The sole relevant national act currently in place is the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) of 1996, which has, however, proven to be significantly ineffective. The AWA establishes that animal test subjects shall be provided with housing and basic pain control, though excluding a great variety of animal species from attribution to such rights and allowing researchers to reverse those regulations, if deemed necessary for the success of the experimentation. Later national laws have provided animals with minimal additional rights and animal testing remains a common phenomenon in both private and state-owned research facilities, with little to no inspection on the procedures

by Cruelty-Free activistic bodies. Animal testing is only legally prohibited in the following US States: California, New Jersey, New York and Virginia.

Concerning animal cloning, the United States of America again preserve a lenient attitude towards the cloning of animals and the consumption of alimentary products deriving from them. In 2008, the American Food and Drugs Administration legalized the administration of alimentary products from animal clones, deeming them safe for consumption. Thus, there are currently neither federal laws banning livestock animal cloning, nor state-funded organizations that inspect animal cloning procedures with the prospect to ensure that they are Cruelty-Free.

### **Peoples' Republic of China**

The Peoples' Republic of China is currently one of the most prolific researchers in the field of animal cloning. Over the past decades, numerous animal cloning proceedings and research have been conducted on Chinese territory, in an abundance of world-renowned animal cloning institutes. No legislation that bans or regulates animal cloning is currently in place and animal cloning research is often conducted with the aid of governmental funds. Animal cloning has been normalized to the extent where a number of Chinese pet owners resort to it, with the prospect of bringing their past household animals back to life. Additionally, livestock animal cloning is commonly used in Chinese agriculture, with no official regulations regarding animal welfare in the field of cloning.

Animal Testing is also significantly commonplace in the People's Republic of China. There are currently no relevant laws in place regarding either the regulation of animal testing or the preservation of cruelty-free principles throughout such proceedings. On the contrary, animal experimentation is frequently a requirement, before a product is safely administered to Chinese citizens.

### **India**

Since 2013, India has been one of the greatest advocates for the preservation of animal rights and welfare regarding animal testing for cosmetic products. All cosmetic product testing procedures were legally prohibited in India in 2013, thus making it one of the first UN Member States to issue such legislation. Subsequently, the Indian government has issued additional legislative directives which further establish the rights of animals to non-cruel treatment and abstention from torturous procedures. Lastly, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) organization has met widespread approval and support in India. The Indian PETA body has taken drastic action on both national and international level, with the prospect of diminishing animal testing instances and protecting the rights of animal test-subjects. Such action ranges from spreading awareness regarding animal

mistreatment in research labs, to widely organized protests, petitions, and initiatives against the unethical treatment of animals.

Regarding the issue of animal cloning, it is indeed used for agricultural purposes, though only limited to a minimal amount of animal species, such as the milk-producing buffalo bulls. Similarly to other UN Member States, Indian citizens suffer from moderate to severe food insecurity and alimentary shortages. Thus, organizations such as the National Dairy Plan (NDP) have been initiated with the aim to increase the productivity of dairy animals. The cloning of dairy-producing animals with desirable traits has been widely considered and partly executed by the NDP and other such organizations, thus resulting in an increased production of vital dairy aliments.

### **European Union**

The European Union has been one of the most prominent animal rights-activists in the past few decades, thus leading the movement of change towards a cruelty-free world to a significant extent. The European Parliament and Commission have thoroughly considered, developed, and passed legislation regarding both the ban of animal cloning and aliments deriving from animal clones, as well as the prohibition of animal experimentation and products tested on animals.

As far as animal cloning is concerned, the European Union has taken major action regarding the ban of animal cloning, as well as the alimentary products deriving from such animals, due to numerous ethical concerns being raised by both EU Member States and the European Parliament. Since 2013, the European Union has adopted a total ban of the cloning of all animals produced for farming purposes. Ever since, further legislative directives of the European Union have covered numerous aspects of animal cloning, thus deeming all activities related to animal cloning illegal in European territory.

### **Central and Northern African Region**

In the Central and Northern African Region there is a largely significant lack of legislation regarding the protection of animal safety, welfare, and health - with the exception of a few countries, such as Ghana and Nigeria. Examples of the aforementioned disregard towards animal rights would be the non-recognition of animal sentience as a valid innate aspect of animal nature and the widespread indifference towards animal suffering in the area. Both the aspects of African culture, which are historically associated with mistreatment of animals, as well as an evident lack of awareness regarding the importance of animal welfare, contribute to a variety of challenges regarding the establishment of domestic animal-protection laws and policies in Central and Northern Africa. Thus, the region in question has shown total indifference towards the matter of animal cloning and experimentation, for the entire concept of animal protection is uncommon in those African

countries. Examples of such countries would be Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Guinea.

### Cruelty-Free International

Cruelty-Free International is a non-profit organization, which leads the international efforts towards the total ban of animal experiments and cruel treatment worldwide. Since its funding in 1989, Cruelty-Free International has cooperated with numerous Nations, Organizations and Companies across the globe with the prospect of achieving social justice in all sectors of animal health and protection. Led by Experts on animal Rights, Cruelty-Free international has supported or launched multiple groundbreaking global campaigns, such as, but not limited to the 'Leaping Bunny Project' and the 'Be Cruelty Free' campaign, which have resulted in significant progress regarding the pending universal prohibition of animal experimentation.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1940	The developers of penicillin as a common-use drug first tested the effects of it in mice, before administering it to the general public.
15 October 1978	The Universal Declaration of Animal Rights was solemnly proclaimed in Paris by UNESCO.
14 June 1898	Cruelty-Free international, a non-profit animal advocacy international organization that campaigns against animal experimentation, was founded
1996	- The 'Leaping Bunny' Programme is launched with the prospect of creating a list of companies which meet the Cruelty-Free standards the programme has set. - On the 5th of July, Dolly the sheep becomes the first mammal to ever be successfully cloned.
January 2008	The US Food and Drug Administration officially deems all alimentary products which derive from cloned animals safe for use and consumption.

2012	The ‘Be Cruelty-Free’ is globally launched by Cruelty-Free International and gains the support of numerous UN Member States worldwide.
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The European Union officially adopts the ‘Cosmetics Directive 76/768/EEC’ regarding the prohibition of animal testing.</li> <li>- The European Union first considers two proposed directives regarding the ban of animal cloning.</li> </ul>
August 2018	The UN Convention on Animal Health and Protection regarding the mandatory cruelty-free treatment of animals is proposed by UN experts.

## RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### Universal Declaration of Animal Rights

The Universal Declaration of Animal Rights was solemnly proclaimed in Paris on 15 October 1978 by UNESCO and made public in 1990. The Universal Declaration of Animal Rights establishes equality among all animal species and their right to protection against any sort of bad treatment or cruel act. The declaration further proclaims, that “All forms of breeding and uses of the animal must respect the physiology and behaviour specific to the species” (Article 5-3), which is applicable to the intrusive method of cloning via breeding of surrogate mothers. Furthermore, the declaration establishes that “Experiments on animals entailing physical or psychological suffering violate the rights of animals” (Article 6-1), thus setting the global requirements for acceptable animal testing and animal experimentation

### UN Convention on Animal Health and Protection

The UN Convention on Animal Health and Protection was first initiated by the Global Animal Law GAL Association with the participation of experts on Animal Law. It was first drafted in August 2018 and elaborately established the right of animals to health and protection by man. Article 4 of the Convention proclaims that Non-Cruelty and good treatment of animals. are imperative regulations that all UN Member States shall abide by. Furthermore, the Convention binds all states to conduct extensive research for alternatives to all non-cruelty-free procedures involving animals, as well as adequately educate the general public about the rights of all animals (Articles 6 and 10 respectively).

## **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 12: “Sustainable Consumption and Production”**

A total of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, with the prospect of creating feasible solutions to crucial global issues, which are to be achieved by 2030. The 12th SDG, namely the Goal for “Sustainable Consumption and Production”, can be directly linked to the implementation of stronger animal rights in regard to their use in product testing. By adopting the 12th Sustainable Development Goal, UN Member States have committed to consideration and application of methods, through which Sustainable Consumption and Production can be achieved on a worldwide scale. The abolishment of animal mistreatment in the field of production and the replacement of animal testing with alternative, non-cruel testing methods, can lead to the establishment of production patterns with longevity and effectiveness. Thus, Cruelty-Free production can be an indicator of sustainability. Additionally, the implementation of stronger animal rights in regard to animal cloning is also connected to the 12th SDG. Due to the recent global rise in livestock cloning, an increased amount of products derive from cloned animals. Thus, the question remains - can alimentary production with the aid of animals, which have undergone the strenuous cloning process, be deemed sustainable and promising?

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

### **Efforts of the EU to ban animal testing**

The European Union has been one of the most active advocates against products which were tested on animals. In 2004, all cosmetic products in their final form that were tested on animals became forbidden on the European territory. Later in 2009, the ‘Leaping Bunny’ project gained widespread recognition in the European Union, which resulted in the ban of cosmetic products with raw ingredients that were also separately tested on animals, except from tests measuring long term toxicity effects. Ultimately, in 2013 the “Cosmetics Directive 76/768/EEC” was signed. Thus, “any cosmetic product whose final product and ingredients have been tested on animals” is imperatively banned, whether it is produced in European territory or imported.

### **The Leaping Bunny Programme**

One of the most distinctive programmes, which is also multilaterally supported by UN Member States in cooperation with Animal Rights Organizations, would be the “Leaping Bunny Programme”. The Programme, first launched in 1996, has set the global standards for cruelty free cosmetics, personal care and household products. Furthermore, Leaping Bunny personnel conduct extensive investigations regarding the Non-Cruelty level of proceedings

in various companies worldwide. Over 2000 companies globally are members of the “Leaping Bunny Programme” and are thus financially and technologically supported by non-profit organizations such as Cruelty-Free International, in exchange for their abstention from any sort of animal-testing.

### **Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW)**

The Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) is a multilaterally proposed Treaty, that 46 UN Member States and 17 ministers of additional countries advocate since it was first proposed in 2014. The purpose of the UDAW would be to create common ground for establishing animal welfare legislation at universal level, if adopted by the UN General Assembly, as well as to set further universal principles regarding the rights of animals. Thus, all UN Member States would be urged to adopt universal legislation regarding the protection of animals and abide by such regulations - including nations that previously had minimum to no domestic legislation revolving around animal rights. With the aforementioned prospects, the supporters of the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare launch consecutive campaigns regarding its potential ratification by the UN.

### **Ban of the EU on the cloning of animals and relevant product import**

In 2013, the European Commission considered two proposals on the cloning of animals kept and reproduced for farming purposes and on the placing on the distribution of alimentary products deriving from cloned animals. Though those initial directives lacked specifications and left a few legislative gaps, European legislation on the ban of animal cloning has been amended multiple times, as of today. In September of 2020, for example, the European Parliament adopted a resolution regarding the ban of all animal cloning procedures in European territory, as well as the import of cloned animals and all alimentary products that derive from them. The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies concluded that cloning animals for food supply was not ethically justified and thus urged the European Commission to consider the imposing of such restriction, to which the EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety responded positively.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Ensuring compliance with already existing UN Treaties**

First and foremost, compliance with the already existing UN Treaties such as the Universal Declaration of Animal Rights and the UN Convention on Animal Health and

Protection is mandatory for all UN Member States that the aforementioned treaties have been signed by. Thus, multilateral efforts with the prospect to ensure the abidance by such universal values shall be in order. Additionally, treaties such as the Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare, which already exist but have not yet been ratified by all UN Member States, should be considered as complementary alternatives to previous UN Conventions and Treaties.

### **Establishment of a provisional common legal framework**

There is a significant lack of national and federal legislation worldwide regarding the protection of animal rights and specifically the aspects of animal safety and welfare, as far as product testing and animal cloning is concerned. The establishment of a provisional common legal framework that all countries are invited to follow throughout the process of nationally enhancing animal welfare, would be a feasible solution to the matter at hand.

A provisional legal framework could refer to the following aspects of animal rights protection, such as the redirection of national and multilateral funds towards research for alternative product-testing methods and livestock agriculture methods, with the prospect of diminishing the demand of animal testing and cloning. Nations could cooperate with the aforementioned prospect in various ways, such as by offering research funds, personnel, infrastructure and technological means and supporting multilateral research efforts.

In addition, inspections by UN animal rights experts could be conducted in state-owned companies and research facilities worldwide, after the consent of the respective state government is attained. Such inspections could also be executed in companies and research facilities that belong to the private sector, if consent is indeed attained. The purpose of the aforementioned inspections would be to monitor whether all principal values proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Animal Rights and the UN Convention on Animal Health and Protection are indeed abided by throughout all procedures involving animals.

The creation of a common policy regarding the public distribution of alimentary and cosmetic products, which either derive from cloned animals or were tested on animals, could also be assessed by UN Member States. Though not mandatory, provisional regulations regarding the extent to which such products should legally be marketed to the general public, could prove to be effective.

Furthermore, UN States could set concrete boundaries regarding the differentiation of animals used as test subjects in medical research and animal testing in cosmetic, utility and alimentary products. Though accepting that all animals have equal rights, the importance of the use of animal test subjects in the aforementioned production fields may vary. Specifically, animal-testing in medical research could potentially be considered more important and necessary than animal-testing in other cases.

## **Reconsideration of the Member States' internal Animal Welfare policies**

A provisional reconsideration of the Member States' internal policies regarding animal cloning, animal experimentation as well as import of alimentary products deriving from cloned animals and of products that were tested on animals, is a further feasible solution. With the aid of accordingly competent UN personnel, such a reconsideration could be achieved in an objective and cooperative way. Thus, a panel of UN experts on multiple aspects of animal rights and welfare could undertake the role of cooperating with state governments during the process of national policy re-assessment.

## **Raising awareness on both national and international level**

An additional significant measure would be the process of raising awareness regarding animal testing and cloning amongst UN citizens. Successful voluntary abidance by domestic and international legislation regarding the protection of animal rights, can solely be achieved through the attainment of mandatory information about animal cloning and testing. Were citizens sufficiently informed about the aforementioned bioethical issues, their views and actions regarding animal protection could be drastically influenced. Thus, nations are urged to adopt awareness-raising strategies on both national and international level. The perpetrators, objectives and targets of such campaigns regarding animal protection are to be assessed amongst UN Member States.

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