

Better Uses for March of Dimes Donations

Good prenatal care and education are the keys to lowering infant mortality and preventing birth defects. Consider the following:

- An estimated 25 percent of all infant deaths could be prevented if adequate prenatal care were provided to the 1.2 million women who need it every year.
- One quarter of pregnant women smoke during pregnancy. If they stopped, infant deaths would decrease by up to 10 percent.
- Alcohol abuse during pregnancy is the leading cause of preventable birth defects. Money spent giving rats alcohol and harming kittens, monkeys, and other animals represents a waste of desperately needed funding for educational and addiction-treatment programs that have proved effective in saving lives.
- The establishment of a national birth-defect registry can identify causes of birth defects—and is considered one of the most effective ways to prevent birth defects.

You Can Help

- Ask the president of the March of Dimes to stop funding experiments on animals.
Jennifer Howse, President, March of Dimes,
1275 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10605
Tel.: 1-888-MODIMES
Fax: 914-428-8203
E-Mail: jhowse@modimes.org
- Donate only to charities that spend donations responsibly and don't fund animal studies, such as Easter Seals and Birth Defect Research for Children. Contact PETA for a list at 866-TEST-KIND, or check out www.MarchOfCrimes.com.
- Educate others about the March of Dimes by writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
- Write to or call PETA for a March of Dimes action pack.

PETA PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS
501 FRONT ST., NORFOLK, VA 23510 • 757-622-PETA
www.MarchOfCrimes.com

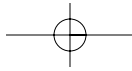
REAL HEROES
SAVE BOTH
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Walk Away From
March of Dimes'
Cruel Animal Tests

With the stated goal of preventing birth defects, the March of Dimes collects millions of dollars in donations annually. **But few donors realize that their gifts help to fund painful experiments on animals.** The March of Dimes has funneled millions of dollars into laboratory tests that use animals, and every dollar spent to harm animals is a dollar that could have been used to help people.

PETA



How the March of Dimes Hurts Animals

PETA recognizes the commendable mission of the March of Dimes to help prevent birth defects. But March of Dimes-funded experiments have wasted resources and caused a great deal of suffering. March of Dimes experimenters have:

- sewn shut the eyes of newborn kittens, then killed the kittens after they had endured a year of blindness
- strapped social, intelligent primates into restraint chairs for days at a time
- damaged the brains of ferrets by cutting open their skulls and injecting chemicals into their brains
- administered alcohol, nicotine, and cocaine to pregnant animals, even though people suffering from addiction to these substances can be observed in hospitals
- forced pregnant sheep to give birth prematurely, then experimented on the lungs of the lambs



people. For example, pregnant animals are routinely used to attempt to predict the effects of chemicals on unborn babies. Yet, discrepancies among species in genetic makeup, in rates of development *in utero*, and in the placenta's ability to "screen out" chemicals render the results of these tests virtually meaningless.

Even birth-defect researchers admit the difficulty of interpreting animal tests because of the fact that any substance can harm fetal development if given in the right dose to the right species at the right time. This is called Karnofsky's Law, and it's often used to excuse the inaccuracy of animal studies.

What Really Helps Babies

Birth defects are prevented and babies are saved when research dollars fund relevant and effective research. This means studying humans in order to identify and prevent conditions that are unique to our own species. Virtually all known developmental hazards have been identified through studies of human populations. For example, human-based research identified:

- the dangers of thalidomide, a drug once commonly given to pregnant women that resulted in severe physical deformities (animal studies had shown thalidomide to be safe)
- the risk of birth defects associated with rubella during pregnancy
- the association of folic acid deficiency with spinal cord abnormalities in fetuses

Why Animal Studies Don't Save Babies

While the March of Dimes is wasting money on useless animal experiments, birth defects are on the rise, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of 38 birth defects studied over a 10-year period, 27 have increased in frequency, nine have remained the same, and only two have decreased.

While infants of all species are capable of experiencing pain, human physiology is different from that of other species, and tests on animals tell us little about what may protect

- the disastrous effects of lead and methyl mercury on developing fetuses

