

Animals in Testing and Training

Millions of animals have been maimed, tortured and killed in chemical, biological, conventional, and nuclear weapons testing. The most common victims are monkeys, sheep, goats, pigs, dogs, cats, mice, rats, and guinea pigs. At various military research sites, animals are left blistered and convulsing by gases, and sickened by biological agents and antidotes. While these types of tests are performed to predict the effects on humans, they are often useless because of our biological differences.

In wound labs, live dogs, goats, pigs, sheep and cats are suspended in slings and shot with high-powered weaponry. Rats have been submerged in boiling water and lit on fire, surviving only to have their wounds purposefully infected. In other experiments, sheep have been blasted by explosives, some testing vests simultaneously. Doctors then practice treating the wounds and kill the animals afterwards.

Back in 1946, the military carried out a test dubbed the "Atomic Ark." They set 4000 animals adrift in a boat and detonated an atomic bomb above them. The animals, mainly sheep and goats, were killed or severely burned. In a different test, rhesus monkeys were strapped into flight simulators, trained with electric shocks, and exposed to full-body radiation. Miserable and vomiting, the monkeys were expected to stay on task or face further shocks. The purpose was to see if human pilots could survive radiation exposure long enough to drop bombs on Moscow.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. Some tests were so brutal that the



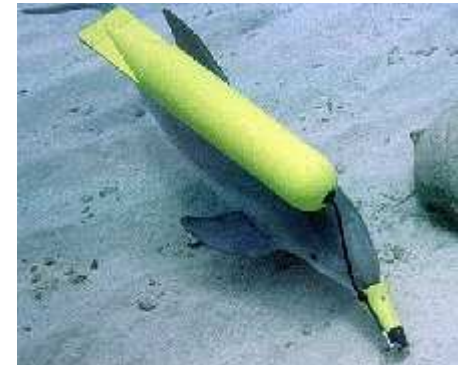
experimenters themselves required psychological counseling. Not mentioned are tests that "inadvertently" affect and kill animals, including conventional and nuclear bomb tests and the recent sonar tests blamed for the beaching of whales and dolphins.

Animals as Soldiers

Humans have been dragging animals into their wars for thousands of years. Neither capable of volunteering for or understanding the circumstances of human conflict, animals are involuntarily drafted into military service. Historically, elephants, horses, and camels are known for carrying soldiers and supplies into the fields of battle. As recently as WWI, horses, mules and donkeys were used so extensively that over 8 million were killed. While nowadays it is more common to see soldiers riding in on tanks or helicopters, the military is nonetheless finding new ways to exploit all types of animals.

In WWII, dogs were trained to seek food beneath German tanks. They were then starved, laden with explosives, and let loose on the field. In Vietnam, 5,000 dogs were used to detect explosives and traps. Only 150 returned after the war, many simply being left behind.

For over forty years, the US Navy has been training dolphins and sea lions to



detect and lay mines, patrol and protect harbors, and even kill human "frogmen." These tasks are not performed voluntarily as dolphins' mouths are velcroed shut to ensure they return for feeding.

In the previous Gulf War, pigeons and chickens were deployed with troops as early warning detectors for chemical attacks. Of 43 chickens abroad with Marines, only one remained after two weeks. The rest had died from the horrible conditions (including heat, noise and fumes) in which they were kept.

Perhaps most disturbing are the recent developments involving the direct brain stimulation of animals to create biological automatons. By tapping into the pleasure and pain centers of the brain, scientists have been able to control animals remotely. Donkeys, "wired" to follow a compass heading over treacherous terrain, have been suggested as means to deliver bombs into enemy territory. Rats, made to turn and jump at the touch of a button, have been suggested as means to clear minefields.

Again, the list goes on.

Animals as Bystanders

Whether domestic or wild, animals suffer horribly from exposure to warfare and its aftermath. Companion animals, captive animals and livestock, so dependent on human care, are often abandoned in the chaos of war. Many are killed by bullets, bombs, mines and unexploded munitions just like humans. In the first Gulf War, 80% of Kuwait's livestock was killed in less than a year. Zoos in both Kuwait and Iraq saw most of their animals die of starvation. Some were caught in the crossfire, others were tortured, and some were eaten by soldiers. Signs of mental distress were clearly evident in animals of the Belgrade Zoo of Yugoslavia back in 1999: Wolves paced around nervously before raids, a tiger began chewing off its own feet, and most babies were aborted or born prematurely.

Wild animals often fare no better. As militaries move across the land in large vehicles and huge numbers they destroy delicate habitats and upset behavior patterns. When Saddam Hussein set his oil fields ablaze, the toxic smoke killed thousands of migratory birds and caused immunologic and blood disorders in larger animals. When he dumped 37 Exxon Valdez spills worth of oil into the Persian Gulf, tens of thousands of marine birds died. In Vietnam, it is unknown how many animals were killed by bombing campaigns and attempts to deforest vast swaths of land with napalm and Agent Orange. Undoubtedly animals are suffering from birth defects just like tens of thousands of Vietnamese.

Depleted Uranium (DU), first used in action in the 1991 Gulf War, is proving to have deadly consequences for inhabitants of former (and current) war zones. It

remains as a residue of radioactive dust throughout the country and has entered the food chain via the water and soil. DU, whose half-life equals the life of the solar system, has had extensive and devastating effects on people, animals and the environment. The number of congenital abnormalities, cancers and malignancies in the Iraqi population since 1991 has led to comparisons with Hiroshima, and similar genetic mutations have been observed in plants and animals.

Sources

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ANIMALS AND WAR

HOW ANIMALS ARE AFFECTED IN THE
PREPARATION, EXECUTION AND
AFTERMATH OF WARS

On this second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq we are confronted with a staggering and deplorable estimate of over 100,000 dead. As expected, this figure does not take into account the injury or death of any animals, victims who are always overlooked in times of war. In fact, animals suffer through all stages of war: They are involuntarily and brutally sacrificed in military testing and training, unwittingly conscripted into human conflicts, unjustly killed as bystanders, and adversely affected by the aftermath.



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