

In my experience, the use of laboratory animals in research studies and "sacrificing" them at the conclusion of the study period is accepted as standard practice without taking into consideration the unnecessary emotional and physical suffering that the animals must endure.

As a dental student and oral and maxillofacial surgery resident, I witnessed laboratory animals being treated as little different than a test tube or a petri dish. I believe that needlessly using, and killing, healthy animals in scientific research is inconsistent with values of compassionate healthcare. I believe that this practice may desensitize clinicians to the pain and suffering of sentient beings.

In these two studies I reviewed, humans research subjects could have been used since the products being studied have already been approved by FDA. Bone biopsies, which are commonly done in human studies, could have been performed for microscopic and immunohistologic analysis without the need for the killing of animals.

James P. Jensvold, DDS