



Image from BBC News: Reuters

Animal Cruelty Crisis!

What Is It?

Animal Cruelty is the abuse (harm) or neglect (not cared for) of an animal by a person or owner. It is happening all over the world in rural and urban areas right at this minute in time. On average, around 100 million animals are killed as a consequence of animal testing and this is only one problem!

Interviews

Because of this issue, we decided to ask a member of staff from the Science Department of St. Benedict's about animal testing. They said, "If it is for medical purposes then it is ok, however as a human we can make a decision to be tested on. Animals have no voice so it takes all their rights away. For a medical purpose it can be ok but you have to think from an ethical point of view." We also asked the member of staff if they knew of the facts about animal cruelty/testing. They said that they didn't know this and it wasn't right.

We then asked a yr.8 pupil from St. Benedict's about their view of animal cruelty. We asked them what they thought and they stated, "I think it is very terrible and should not be allowed at all." We then asked them if they knew about the facts and figures.

They replied, "No I did not know but I think it is horrible and absolutely disgraceful!" Many other pupils also agreed with this pupil.

Why?

There are two main reasons why people abuse animals (mainly pets). One reason is that they do not know they are causing the animal pain whereas the other reason might be that the person was abused themselves. This means that they think it's the only way to treat them.

Most common victims of animal cruelty involve:

70.1% dogs

20.9% cats

20.1% other animals

As you can see, dogs are the main victims of the abuse.

Examples

An example of animal cruelty is that particular dogs were being silenced by putting tape over their mouths

Another example is that certain farms and homes failed to meet the requirements to be legally allowed to keep animals. However, they were still rearing them.

One last example was a certain owner was found with many starved and dead animals in their home.

Overall, we can see that there is a split opinion regarding the subject: animal cruelty.

On the one hand, people think that the laws of animal cruelty should -and need to be- stricter, as well as being watched more carefully.

On the other hand however, people will unfortunately continue to abuse animals and because they are neglected, more animals will need to be placed in shelters.

By Chloe, Kiri and Hope-Tilli

Rescue And Prevention

The RSPCA is one of many other businesses of people who try to rescue and rehabilitate all animal cruelty victims. Every year, they have over 140,000 calls about animal cruelty. About 7.6 million pets go into animal shelters over the whole nation. 3.9 million of these pets are dogs and 3.4 million are cats. In addition to this, 2.7 million animals are euthanized (put to 'sleep'). This is due to illness, aggression or overpopulation.

You can do your part to try and eliminate animal cruelty. To do this, if you see or know of someone abusing their animals then tell someone like the RSPCA or even the police.