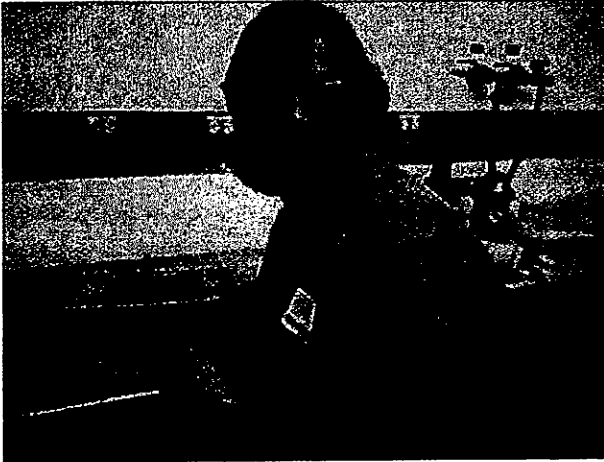


# Bioethi

## Animal Testing of Pharmaceuticals



Gail T. Colbern, DVM, MS, DACT is a Lab Animal Veterinarian and the Director of Biopharmacology at Cell Genesys, Inc. Dr. Colbern is responsible for ensuring that the animals used to test new medicines for safety and effectiveness are treated with the best possible care. She is also responsible for making certain that the animals do not suffer pain or distress during the studies. With a team of technicians, she makes sure that the animals have plenty of good food and water, and are comfortable in their environment. Monitoring the animals requires a lot of documentation.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Gail Colbern.

Most people have a deep fondness for all kinds of animals. Dogs, cat, rabbits, hamsters, and birds are pets to millions of people around the world. It is difficult to imagine them being caged in laboratories for the purpose of testing drugs. But what if your husband or wife needed a cancer drug? You would probably want to be sure it was proven safe before it was available for human use. It is sometimes hard to accept that any kind of animal testing is necessary, but by knowing the contributions that animals have made to medical advances, it is easier to understand why animal testing is conducted.

**TO DO** Go to [www.ca-biomed.org/csbr/students.php](http://www.ca-biomed.org/csbr/students.php) and click on the turquoise-colored circle. It links to an activity that describes how animals have contributed to medical advances in different decades. Another link on the same page (dark blue circle) describes how animals have helped scientists learn more about Alzheimer's and other devastating diseases.

1. In groups of four, you will be assigned a set of questions to review and discuss from [www.fbresearch.org/animal-research-faq.htm](http://www.fbresearch.org/animal-research-faq.htm).
2. If your group number is odd, you are responsible for the first four questions. If your group number is even, you are responsible for the last four questions.
3. One person in each group reviews one question. Write down the question and summarize the answer. Then, write a short response to the question and to the answer. Discuss whether you agree or disagree with the answer and why.
4. Assemble the group of four students, and give a short presentation on the question and answer you reviewed. Include your thoughts and responses. Determine how many in your group agree with you.