Title: Animal Experimentation Should Be Allowed

Finding cures for diseases has been a longstanding goal in medical science. Thus, experimentation is a crucial element in the process of finding these cures. Lately, there has been a controversy between animal rights supporters and scientists about whether it is right to use animals in experimental research. It is viewed as animal cruelty as the animals could be harmed or die during the process. Although animal experimentation may seem cruel, animals may be used for experimental research that contributes to science if there are no other alternatives.

Animal rights activists claim that people and animals are equal and thus they should be treated equally; however, people and animals should not be seen as equal. The death of an animal cannot be seen as the same thing as the death of a person. For that reason, causing animals to die for science, for the sake of saving human lives, “may be considered ethical to some extent if it will contribute to the advancement of science” and will be to the benefit of humanity in general (Tanner, 2012).

Animal rights supporters label scientists as ‘cruel’ for causing animals to die in medical experiments. However, they do not oppose the people, mostly farmers, who kill animals for food. According to Grey (2012), “99% of animal deaths are caused by farmers while only a small percentage, i.e. 1% is caused by scientists”. There is not much difference between the scientist and farmers as both use animals for the benefit of human beings.

Another basic argument of animal rights defenders is that people and animals are different genetically and therefore it is useless to use animals in experiments to see the effects of some substances on people. Some of them even assert that it is better to use people directly as they think that the results of experiments on animals cannot be valid and reliable as long as the same observation has not been done on man also. However, these people cannot foresee the disastrous results of such a practice. People and animals may not be the same, but to some degree there are similarities which can at least give scientists an idea about their experiments obtained (Brown, 2012). Many people are likely to die from the unknown effects of the test until a healthy result is obtained.

From this point of view, scientists are right to use animal models to provide themselves with information about what is happening at level of detail that could not be achieved in humans. Although there might have been some incidents when animal testing did not prove to be useful and some effects of some drugs observed on animals could not be observed on people, there are also a lot of examples that show that using animals resulted in significant developments and helped to cure some serious illnesses. On the other hand, if there are alternative methods that should be used instead of animal experimentation. Then, of course, it is cruel and unethical to use animals. For example, in some experiments in-vitro methods can be used as an alternative to using live
animals. In such occasions, it is certainly much better and right to employ these alternatives.

All in all, it can be said that using animals for medical research is ethical as long as it contributes to scientific development and helps scientists find ways to improve human health. And this practice is only acceptable on the condition that necessary pains are taken and animals are treated humanely.

(579 words)