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Against Animal Cruelty in the Fashion Industry

Animal cruelty is the use of animals for testing of products by human beings in order to ensure their safety and applicability before they can be released for use. Animal cruelty is perpetrated by manufacturers who use laboratory tests on, especially, primates and rodents, to pre-test products meant for human consumption before they are released to the market. In most cases, buyers are usually unaware of whether or not the products they are using such as lipstick or fashionable products are developed using animal testing. Animal testing is one of the biggest modes of animal cruelty in the fashion industry. This is because some countries such as China require all human consumption or application products to be tested on animals for safety checks.

In most cases, creamy products to beautify the face and the body, as well as hair products, are pre-tested on animals before they are sold to human beings. The argument is that their safety and appropriateness in human beings can only be guaranteed if they have been tested on animals. PETA enlists a number of manufacturers who use animal testing while giving alternatives to manufacturers who have aligned their manufacturing processes and product testing with the global animal rights movement. These companies include the Victoria secret who initially warns against animal testing. However, due to the lucrative Chinese market and due to regulations by the Chinese government and authorities requiring that every product being sold

to the Chinese market must be tested on animals, the company resulted back to animal testing where it uses different species to test for the safety of the products before releasing them to the market. The Total Lash Cover maker *Maybelline* also held anti-animal testing policies but bowed to the Chinese market and the Chinese regulations on animal testing and product safety guarantees. OPI is in the group of manufacturers who uphold the anti-animal testing policy in the western market but pay for Chinese animal testing Services, thus breaching the PETA policy. Other products include brands such as Makeup Forever, Estée Lauder, Clinique, Avon and Benefit. These companies sell their products to China and thus have to ensure animal testing before any product is exported into the Chinese market which is a regulation and a requirement by the local authorities (Ingrid, 1).

Animal testing helps manufacturers and researchers to find products that are fit for different human needs. The glossy products, for instance, are tested on animals to find whether they serve their intended purpose and in order to ascertain their fitness for human application. Also animal testing is to ascertain human safety. Most of the chemical products used for fashion design and beauty are derived from different ingredients and which can have diverse side effects on the host. To ensure that they are fit, healthy and secure for human consumption or human application, researchers and manufacturers or developers use animals such as rodents to test for human safety where the animal is subjected to different conditions while being tested for the specific product. Should there be controversy in the market, the product will be retested on animals whereby some survive the adverse side effects of the testing while others succumb to the severe side effects. Lastly, animals are the closest alternative for human testing on products

before they are approved. To reduce the risk of side effects, animals, especially rodents, have helped to shield human beings from laboratory tests on potentially harmful side effects (Ian, 1).

However, there are many disadvantages to animal testing. Why am I against animal cruelty? First, the animals tested are reared and congested in unfriendly living conditions. This may include poor hygiene and overcrowding which leads to the animal's poor health and wellbeing. Secondly some of the trial-and-error tests on animals end up never being used for anything beneficial once they are proved to be potentially harmful to the human race. The cost-benefit analysis leaves the animals disadvantaged for products that were never implemented or useful after all. Also, some of the animals tested on suffer irreparable damages such as skin or health illness. Other animals tested end up being killed or eliminated from the animal care facilities. This renders them homeless while the killing of tested animals brings unnatural death to such animals. Animals that survive with severe damages end up nursing injuries from the tested products for a long time. Ultimately whether tested on animals or not, the products never get the exact results desired for human application since human beings and animals have different reactions to different products as they are never the same (Ian, 1)

It is imperative for regulators to ensure the bare maximum limit for what animals can be subjected to. The testing should guarantee zero damage to the animal and research and development should focus on reducing animal cruelty. Also, the testing of animals should ensure that no animal will become unwell or be killed due to reasons emanating from the animal testing practice. They should hold the life of the animal as dear as the life of the person benefiting from the tests. The government through the relevant authorities should institute regulations providing

for the proper handling, care and protection of animals and animal rights enforced for the safety of such animals, beginning from the farming practice to the testing practice (Hennings, 109-125).

Animal rights and activists should protect animals from being killed for animal products in clothing. From ages past, people used to use animal products such as hides and skins to cover themselves or to make their beds. With time, technology-enabled reduced damages on the animals as fur became an option and an alternative for hides and skins. Today, it's possible to make synthetic fur and to make clothes from other fiber material such as cotton end flux. With alternatives for cloth making, using animal products in clothing is both unethical and immoral towards the animals. There ought to be maximum protection against harm or abuse in handling and using animals (Wrenn, 2015).

While there is hardly any difference between how we use animals today and how they were used in earlier years in terms of the objective, the emergence of scientific research using animals to test animal products in the fast rearing of animals to ensure quality animal products raises controversies in that the animals are subjected to unnatural growth or environments either as an effort to reap big on animal products or to increase their endurance for test results. In earlier days, the animal was subjected to less harm and pain as they used to be killed only when the products are needed. Again the demand for animal products continues to rise with increasing population. This is despite the increasing animal rights activists squashing products that require animal testing or animal products to manufacture (Planthin, 49-122).

The standards for animal farming and slaughter for fashion purposes are contained in the overall veterinary dictionary, the world animal health organization and the five freedoms articulated by western standards. These standards require that animals must receive disease

prevention and veterinary treatment, adequate nutrition, humane slaughtering, appropriate shelter, clean handling and close attention. The five freedoms require that animals must be protected against thirst and hunger, must not be subjected to discomfort, must be protected from disease, pain and injury, must be given adequate space and company of similar animals and must be free from fear and distress. These ethical standards require the farmer or handlers to respect animal rights and freedoms by providing proper health, shelter and diagnosis to avoid disease or distress (Planthin, 62).

It's my conclusion that we all should not use animal products for clothing and accessories since there are alternative and eco-friendly sources of ornaments and clothing such as flux and other synthetic products. Should there be animal testing, the standards should be stricter to help curb animal cruelty and to discourage animal testing. This will help protect animal rights and freedoms (Hennings, 109-122).

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