



Rat Trap

The capture of medicine by animal research – and how to break free

New book by Pandora Pound argues that ending animal research will make drug testing safer and speed up medical progress.

With devastating clarity, Dr Pandora Pound, Research Director at Safer Medicines Trust, comprehensively dismantles the case for animal research, ending the 150-year-old debate about its value once and for all. Focusing on the science rather than animal suffering (and including no distressing details) she provides a riveting account of how the practice became established, before proceeding to painstakingly reveal the futility and shockingly poor quality of most animal studies.

'The issue of animal research affects all of us', explains Dr Pound. 'Our health and safety is at stake. This is not just about animals –the effect on patients has been overlooked for far too long.'

Here, Dr Pound slays the many myths about animal research, arguing that medical progress and human health are thwarted by this harmful practice. *Rat Trap* examines how awe-inspiring technologies could revolutionise medicine if only it were able to escape the stranglehold of animal research. In offering a glimpse of a future in which we embrace human-relevant science, *Rat Trap* is a passionately told story of hope. Yet, she argues, resistance from some elements of the scientific community poses a grave threat to progress.

Dr Pandora Pound is Research Director at Safer Medicines Trust. She has a PhD in the Sociology of Medicine and over two decades' experience of conducting research. Explaining how she became interested in the topic she says, 'During the many years I worked in medical schools, I was always aware that somewhere in the depths of these buildings were laboratories that housed animals for use in medical experiments. Talking about the science of these experiments appeared to be taboo, so I decided to find out more.' Her investigations resulted, in 2004, in the publication of a landmark paper published in the British Medical Journal, which in turn led to a series of studies that exposed the scientific limitations of using animals in medical research, ultimately transforming the debate on animal experiments. In *Rat Trap*, she brings us up to date with this deeply controversial issue almost twenty years on.

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