

# Walk the dog!

The European School Project about People and Animals



**What animal factories?**

**„The smallest cat is a masterpiece“**

**A secret behind make-up?**

**student magazine 2**

For young people from 12 years of age

# People's strange love of animals

Some animals we feed,



others we eat.



Some animals help us,



others we use as test objects.



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# What is it all about?

Dear readers of *Walk the dog!*,

we humans find animals cute, boring, smelly, pretty, fluffy, slippery, fast, smart, flexible and sometimes also awkward. But do we love animals?

“Surely”, a lot of people very quickly answer this question: ”We humans love the animals”. If we look a little closer the answer is not quite so straightforward any more. In fact we do have a strange and sometimes even sad relationship to the animals on this planet.

A lot of our domestic animals we do indeed love very much although we don't always treat them very well. Our animal husbandry procedures are often not appropriate for the species, lab animals suffer during experiments, other animals we force to ride a bicycle through the circus, and a lot of others we put in tight cages where they sit around, are bored and often even get sick because of it.

Should we do everything we want with animals just because we're stronger? Or should we take responsibility for them and look after their welfare? After all animals are our fellow beings on the earth.

It is worthwhile to think about this strange relationship to animals. Of course you don't have to sit in a boring corner and think. No! In order for it to be fun to engage with the animals in our country there is *Walk the dog!*

At the latest when your *Walk the dog!*-magazines look as ragged as your favourite book you should have a look at our web page [www.walk-the-dog.eu](http://www.walk-the-dog.eu).

Lots of fun with *Walk the dog!* wishes you the

Erna-Graff-Foundation for Animal Welfare



Prof. Jörg Luy  
(Chairman of the board)



Lars Röper  
(Chief Executive Officer)



## Task:

What kind of foreword would you write for this magazine?

# „She is probably a bunny hugger!“

„Super!“

Mike giggled. “She is probably a bunny hugger!” he whispered to his mate. “Or a tree hugger!” answered Nick, “her clothes look like it anyway.” Nick spoke quietly because the young woman with the knitted sweater and the sandals, her tangled hair hanging off all sides of her head, had sat down at the table right next to them. Mike was sipping on his iced coffee.

“Now she’s even ordering peppermint tea”, he murmured to Niko. Both started to smirk, slurped their drinks and smirked again. Over that they almost missed the ringing of Mike’s mobile.

He rummaged around for it in his shambolic bag and answered it with a particularly cool “Yes”.

“It’s Sophie here”, it squawked out of the mobile. Mike was almost speechless, Nick’s eyes nearly popped. Sophie was an exchange student from Paris who had arrived at their school two weeks ago. And in all honesty, Mike and Nick had concluded that she was more attractive than all the other girls at their school taken together.

“So, what are you doing today?” asked Sophie with an accent that couldn’t be any cuter. Mike’s heart was missing a beat. At least that’s what he thought. The smirk slipped from his face. “Oooooooh”, he said, “we’re just sitting here at the corner café and chill.”

“Sounds good”, answered Sophie, “shall we catch up later and do something together?”

Mike mumbled another “oooooh” into his mobile. Then he found his speech again.

“Sure, why not”, he said, a good deal more excited than he would have expected. “Super!” answered Sophie, “I’m just shopping at the moment, then I want to listen to two new CD’s, later I’m going to a meeting of our RSPCA branch for an hour and copy homework from Paul. But I’m free the whole evening....”

“Oooo”, Mike was quite amazed: The sweetest girl in school was into animal welfare!

Mike looked across to the neighbouring table. The peppermint tea drinker had gone. Maybe the world wasn’t quite as simple after all as he and Nick occasionally thought. It might be totally ok to wear trendy clothes, listen to exciting music, to find cinema, movies and rock festivals tops and at the same time be committed to animal welfare.



**And why shouldn't it go together? Shopping, dancing in discos, partying it up, reading clever books, sending nasty texts, either idolising or running down the newest hits, and seeing to it that animals one day get a better deal with us.**

To work that one out it shouldn't be necessary for the dream man or the exchange student from Paris to come around the corner. The bad thing is that we hardly ever look around corners or behind the scenes these days. It's not unusual for us to not know anything about how all the meat is produced that rotates on spits or sizzles in frying pans all around us every day. Which experiments involve animals even today, that's another corner around which we don't look.

On the next pages you can dare to have a few peeks!

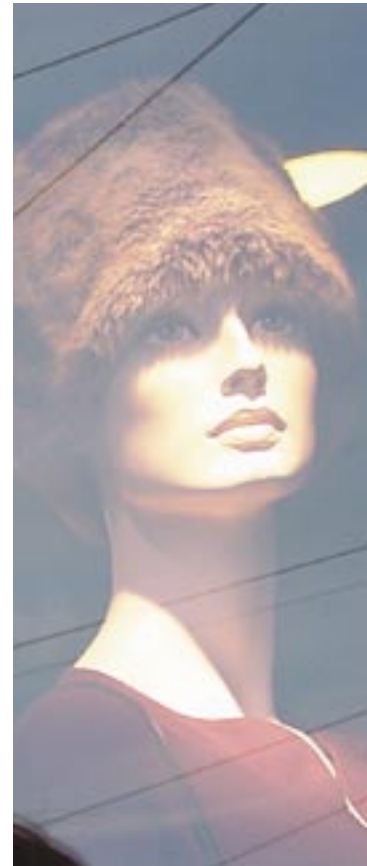
## Task:

Frequently we have preconceived ideas about people. Do you know examples of people who are supposed to have certain characteristics? What's dangerous about such clichés?

# Famous Animal Welfare Supporters....



Natalie Imbruglia,  
Pink,  
Britney Spears,  
Brad Pitt,  
Cindy Crawford,  
Jamelia,  
Morrissey,  
Paul McCartney,  
Christina Applegate,  
Sophie Ellis-Bextor,  
Joss Stone,  
Pamela Anderson,  
Tommy Lee,  
Dennis Rodman



...and lots of other famous, unknown, tall, small, thick and thin people also advocate for us to think about animal welfare. A number of the mentioned celebrities for example have protested repeatedly against the wearing of fur. This is because behind the production of fur a lot of animal suffering is hidden.

Maybe the commitment of a lot of celebrities started like Lucy's from the following story.

## The rock star and the doner!

Lucy put the electric guitar to the side, let the last distorted sound of feedback die away and clapped her hands. "Now", she said, "the future rock star really needs something in her stomach." She didn't have to think about this for long. A doner from around the corner would be ok, she thought. After that a new terrific hit would surely come to her. "Let's go", said Lucy, walked down the stairs, out of the house and around the corner to the doner stall.

"One doner", Lucy ordered and looked around the shop. It's funny, she thought, up until now I hadn't noticed the forever rotating spit full of meat properly. Sure, she had often spotted it but never really looked at it. With every turn of the spit the question was creeping more and more into Lucy's head: "Where does all that meat really come from that is turning there in circles all the time?"



Many people eat meat every day, sometimes a sausage, then a hamburger, a few chicken wings, a bit of gyros or a salami sandwich. However, they still can't answer the question that suddenly popped into Lucy's head while looking at the gyros spit. Can you?



## Task:

In our newspapers and on television there is very little information about how meat, milk and eggs are produced. Why do you think that is?

# Where do meat, milk and eggs come from?

“So, where does all the meat come from?” Lucy had asked herself in the story on the previous page. One should extend the question: Where do the milk, cheese and the eggs come from?

Here are some numbers from statistics published by the European Commission that provide an answer. The photos on the left show how the majority of the animals are housed.



Pig farming is one of the most important branches of European agriculture. In the EU 1.6 billion fattening pigs are kept. Most of them live on concrete slats without bedding.



In the EU we mainly keep chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese as poultry for fattening. The vast majority of these live in large barns in groups of many thousands.



Around 24 million cattle (dairy cows) live in the EU. On the left you see a typical stable. Increasingly the animals are housed in open stables in order for fresh air to get in. Most stand on concrete slat floors.



There are about 3 billion layer hens in the EU. Most of them live in enriched cages like the ones you can see on the photo on the left. They are permissible under EU-law.

All these animals are kept so we can eat meat and eggs, drink milk and bake cakes almost daily. The EU regulation 98/58/EG that defines the minimum requirements for the protection of commercial farm animals obliges all member states to ensure that people in charge of animals abide by the following principle: “All animals have to be housed, fed and looked after in accordance with their physiological and ethological requirements.”

On the right you find a typical CV of a fattening pig. How about reading it and then have another look at the paragraph above. What do you notice?

The fattening poultry and a lot of other commercial farm animals share a similar fate with No 232325. As a result of special breeding fattening chickens (“Broilers”) grow so fast that their bones get bent! Turkeys have their beak tips cut off because they would otherwise peck each other in the cramped conditions. More on this on the next pages and: [www.walk-the-dog.eu](http://www.walk-the-dog.eu)

## A curriculum vitae

Name: Fattening pig No. 232325

Marital status: Never married

Children: None

6th of January 2009 – born somewhere in a breeding unit as the child of breeding sow No 126742. My mother has very little room; she can't even turn around.

31st of January 2009 – They take me away from my mother and sell me to a fattening unit. There they put me into a confined pen with a large number of other piglets. We get given highly concentrated feed to make our muscles grow fast. In some of my colleagues the bones can't quite keep up with the growth of the muscles. They get problems with the joints.

20th of March 2009 – I'd like to play and root around the area as it is in my nature. But there is barely room for all of us to lie down at the same time.

15th of April 2009 – Actually we pigs are very clean animals but here we don't have a chance to take care of that. It is too constricted, and we are not trampling down all of the faeces down through the concrete slabs. Many of us get lung problems because we constantly breath in ammonia that is rising from the slurry reservoirs below us.

13th of May 2009 – They are picking us up. I don't know where we're going. All of us, even me, are nearly out of our minds while they are driving us onto a truck. They have mixed us with strange pigs. That totally stuffs up our pecking order. Some animals are therefore becoming aggressive and start to shove and bite each other.

13th of May 2009 – I am driven into a cage like lift. The lift moves downwards into a chamber filled with CO2 gas. I'm having trouble breathing but soon become unconscious. Hopefully I won't wake up again before I get slaughtered.



### Task:

Please list: According to its nature how would the pig like to behave?  
What kind of behaviour does it get forced to adopt?

# Animals as a commercial item

It sounds strange but meat is a mass product just like socks, tennis rackets, CD's, mobile phones, gym shoes, cars or studded belts. The history of meat consumption in Germany for example tells us how it happened that our farm animals became a mass product.



After the World War II the Sunday roast was something very special. Germany was largely destroyed, there was no work and hardly anyone could afford more than one meat meal a week. Meat was deemed a luxury food. A lot of people spent the whole week tremendously looking forward to the Sunday roast. Very carefully the small leftover pieces of meat were reused in other dishes. Not a morsel of this "luxury" should get lost. By the way: Whoever toiled the hardest during the week, the father actually almost always was regarded as this person, also got the biggest piece of meat.

**Slowly the German economy started to boom again.**

In the sixties the television arrived on the market and – surely! – everyone wanted to have such a magic box in the apartment. And: Where there is a TV-set there also is

TV-advertising! One of the first stars was the fried chicken that was presented golden brown in the ads for the "Wienerwald"-restaurants and quickly became famous and popular. Everywhere in Germany fast food outlets for fried chicken sprang out of the ground like mushrooms. The people took a fancy to them and thanks to the cheap chickens suddenly also became enthusiastic about other meat meals. And like a flash the curry sausage was booming.

**How good did it smell in the USA**

That's what the Germans wanted as well – and they imported barbecuing. Now it smelled just as yummy over German verandas as it did in the USA. There the big steaks were the thing, for the Germans the Bratwurst became the absolute superstar. In the seventies a look of amazement grew on the faces of the housewives. The little

corner stores disappeared one after the other. In their stead large supermarkets developed just as fast. And there they had something very special: Chest freezers filled with meat. Apart from sausages a lot of other things had now become mass products. In the following years the Germans became accustomed to eating meat almost daily.

**They spend a lot of money on holidays and on drinks in cafés and clubs! Love to buy CD's, books and clothes – but when it comes to spending a little more money on grocery shopping they have been the most stingy in all of Europe.**

**The prices for a piece of pork, beef or chicken have stayed the same for almost forty years. Nearly every other product has hugely increased in price.**

## Tasks:

1. How long do you have to work for an egg or a chop given an hourly wage of eight Euros?
2. Record for a week how much meat, sausages, sandwich meat, cheese, milk, yoghurt, eggs etc. you eat.



# “What animal factories...?”

“Shhhhhhhht!”

Jason scrambled over the wall closely followed by his mate Aaron who looked backwards unnerved again and again.

“Come on”, whispered Jason. “Shhhht”, made Aaron while both of them left the wall behind and ran towards the little stable in a crouched posture. The old wooden door creaked dangerously. Aaron was breaking into a sweat. “Someone is going to hear us, someone is surely going to hear us”, it span around in his head in which things were spinning quite a bit after a long night anyway. But no light went on anywhere, only the moon was shining down onto the boys without pause.

It had got late. “Too late” Aaron’s and Jason’s parents would probably have called it. “My parents think I’m staying at your place”, said Jason after a glance on the watch. Arno’s parents naturally thought Aaron was sleeping at Jason’s home, and so the boys had decided to have a kip somewhere in the straw until dawn. Then they would go home and pretend nothing had happened.

In the stable it was pitch black apart from a few rays of moonshine that through a crack in the roof had managed to light up one corner a bit. That was where the two laid down on the floor so they could both see each other’s face.

“Are you able to get some shut eye?” asked Aaron after a while.

Jason turned around. “Not a chance”, he answered, “the place reeks of animals, doesn’t it?”

“Mega”, Aaron replied.

“And there aren’t even any animals here”, remarked Jason.

“Correct”, said Aaron although he could hardly see anything.

“There are almost no animals living in these types of stables anymore”,



said Jason, “I believe most of them live in animal factories.”

“Animal ... what?”, asked Aaron.

“Because you love munching meat so much farmers have to produce a lot of meat”, said Jason, “they therefore have to keep a lot of animals.”

Aaron remembered the gyros roll and the sausage that he had eaten a few hours ago.

“So, are these animal factories bad for the animals?”, he asked.

“Not a clue”, said Jason.

## The term is slippery

The term “Animal Factory” that gets used a lot in the context of husbandry procedures for pigs, cattle, calves, broilers and other commercial farm animals is rather spongy: It easily slips away when someone enquires after the exact meaning of “Animal Factories” and how the animals fare in them. Actually the term historically originated as a swear word. It gets used to express displeasure about a commercial husbandry procedure in which a large number of animals are kept in a small area. However you can’t simply claim that “Animal Factories” are bad for animals in principle. Just as you can’t say that all commercial farm animals fare get treated exceptionally well in them. Our farmers talk about conventional commercial animal husbandry. But no matter what you call it

important for the animal is that they are being kept appropriately for the species.

## Appropriate animal husbandry

Appropriate animal husbandry calls for careful consideration of the natural requirements of the animals and how they can be satisfied – otherwise the animals get sick. For example experts differentiate between social, exploratory, nutritional and excretion behaviour of animals. It therefore is important to pay attention to how many animals share a pen, whether they have enough light, air, adequate space to scout around the area and for sleeping. If a farming system fulfils these requirements then it is appropriate animal husbandry. For pigs and chickens it means the following:

Pigs: The animals need a lot of room to

move, soft flooring, the opportunity for group building, for the separation of feed, sleep and defecation sites; the animals love rubbing posts or showers for body hygiene.

Chickens: Pecking and scratching are inherent requirements of chickens. Apart from that the animals require a sand bath for body hygiene. The sand binds sweat particles that are then tossed out. Just like we love a warm shower the chickens look after themselves in this way. In addition the animals need a certain distance to the other animals around them and of course a secure nest to lay the eggs in.

**Whatever expression you may choose: Most of the commercial farming animals live in husbandry systems that aren’t yet meeting the requirements appropriate for the species. On the next page we dare to have a look behind the stable doors and also at [www.walk-the-dog.eu](http://www.walk-the-dog.eu).**



### Task:

Answer Aaron seeing that the clueless Jason can’t.

# The dilemma

Of course many farmers know how important it is for the welfare of animals and also for the quality of the meat and the other products for them to be housed properly – after all they are professionals in dealing with animals. In spite of this the farmers are often stuck in a dilemma: The more appropriate to the species the housing of the farm animals is the more expensive it usually is. Every extra effort costs time and money. Despite this it's unlikely that the stock buyer or slaughterhouse that buys the animals is paying an extra cent for the product.

## The example of fattening pigs gives a good impression of the situation.

Today fattening pigs are usually kept on slat flooring without bedding – that has got advantages and disadvantages. Faeces and urine are forced into the slurry reservoirs by the animals through spaces in the floor. Nobody has to muck out here any more. That means less work for the farmers. However it frequently happens that the animals injure their claws (“hooves” on the legs of cloven hoofed animals, e.g. pig, cattle, goat, sheep etc.) on the commonly sharp edged slats, the faeces don't quite get pushed down through the openings or too many animals are kept in confined pens. All too often the ventilation and cleaning systems then can't keep up and the air in the shed is loaded with harmful gases (mainly ammonia) and the pigs get lung

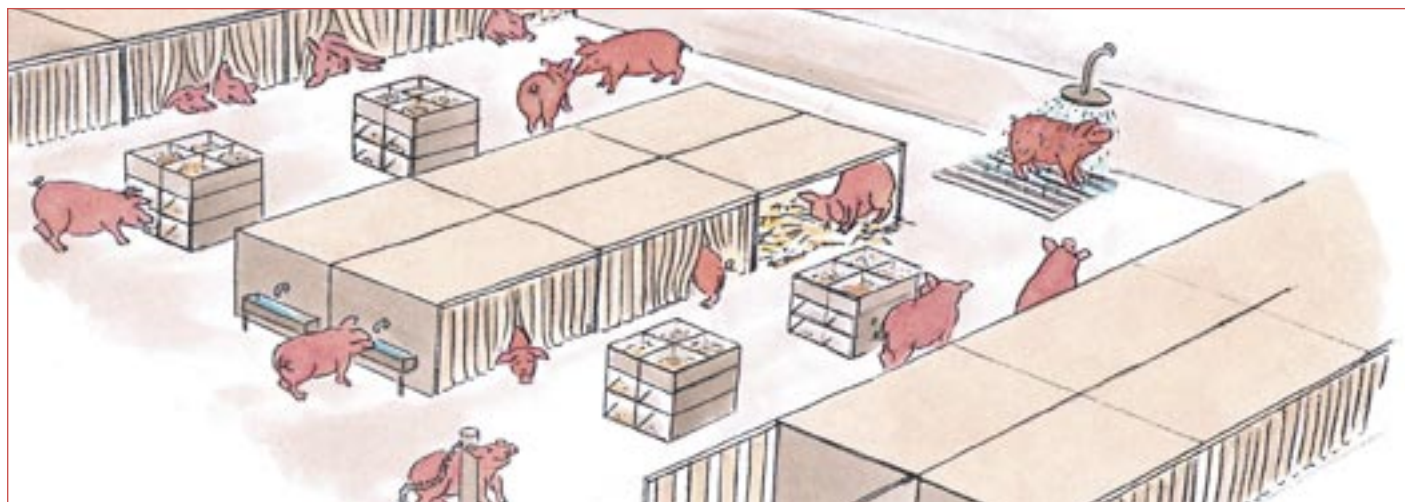
diseases which in turn can lead to death.

Another big problem is boredom. The more confined and monotonous the pens are the more bored the pigs become. It is in the nature of the animals to spend most of the day foraging for food, to eat, to dig and to root around the area. In the pens they hardly have the opportunity to follow this natural behaviour. In this respect the husbandry of the pigs is not appropriate for the species. The animals feel unwell and in many cases experience behaviour problems.

## Into the rooting box, onto the rubbing post and then have a shower!

A husbandry system in which pigs do really well is the so-called Nuerntinger Model you can see down below or similar sheds.

In those pig stables there are resting boxes, automatic feeders, dung sites, water troughs, a rubbing post, a rooting box and even a shower. The pigs feel really snug because they can observe their natural urges. Unfortunately there are only few pigs that live appropriately like this. As sheds like that are significantly dearer than a conventional shed with concrete slat flooring and the farmer has a lot more work.



## We have arrived at the core of the problem:

Even for cattle, pigs, chickens and turkeys there are opportunities to keep them in a more suitable way than is often the case today. But these husbandry systems are usually dearer by quite a bit than those in which the animals stand closer together and have less variety. However a lot of farmers cannot or don't want to pay these extra costs.

The best would be if while shopping we considered whether the animals we want to eat have been farmed under good conditions. But how can we discern which meat is derived from animals that had a good life similar to the ones in the shed above. In fact there is a lot of cheating going on with the labelling on packaging. But you can rely on the Bio-Siegel, the EU-Bio-Siegel and on all certified organic associations in your member country. You'll find their logos and more shopping tips on the back of the magazine and on [www.walk-the-dog.eu](http://www.walk-the-dog.eu).

## Tasks:

1. Is penny-pinching cool for animals?
2. A hint: If farms advertise at your market with “appropriate animal husbandry” pay them a visit and have a look how animal fare there.

# Ready for the “shrink test”?

## The shrinking chop

“May the contest begin!” Matt encouraged his friends, clapped his hands and whistled. Paul and Lisa jostled to the stove, ignited the gas and each of them placed a frying pan with fat on one of the gas hobs. “Now the chops”, Matt spurred them on again while both of them had already taken a chop from the fridge and placed it in the middle of the pan. The fat splattered, Lisa cried out, Paul was acting cool although he had also copped a few drops on his arm. Both chops sizzled away in the pan; sometimes it almost looked as if they were jumping a bit under the heat. Matt in his role as umpire was looking at his watch, then to the two chops, then again at his watch. “Actually, one shouldn’t really have competitions with food”, Matt said earnestly, “but this is more like an experiment anyway.” Again he was looking in turns at his watch and the two pieces of

meat. “Now you can see it”, he said and looked at Paul and Lisa. Both of them had a look into their pan. The two chops had been roughly equal in size before they had landed in the pans. But now – Lisa was

looking at the piece of meat almost a little angry – her chop was only half the size of Paul’s. And this despite the fact that she was surely twice as hungry as he was!



**Do you know the phenomenon that the three in the story above have been experiencing? A piece of pork shrinks during frying in the pan in such a way that one would quite like to have a stern talking to the butcher.**

You don’t have to be wizards to analyse the phenomenon that happens with so-called PSE- (pale, soft, exudative) or DFD-meat (dark, firm, dry). Such a shrinking or dry piece of meat is quite a good indicator for animals that were subjected to too much pressure during the transport and/or at the abattoir. Animals “produced” today

(that’s the economic expression) have a high lean meat percentage (very little fat) and a high body weight in order to achieve the highest possible meat yield. We know now that these animals react very strongly to excessive pressure during transport and before slaughter. If they are put under too much stress it results in metabolic problems and the resulting meat will later have quality defects. It shrinks in the pan, is paler or darker than normal and in any case it is just as tough as Lisa’s chop from the story above.

**A shrinking piece of meat shows you in this way that the animal you want to eat hasn’t been treated well. Maybe you don’t care about that and you just want to eat a piece of meat in peace and quiet. But maybe you prefer it if the animals have been treated well. Remember the shopping tips on the last page!**



## Tasks:

1. What’s actually hiding behind such abstract expressions like “pressure”, “excessive pressure” and “stress”?
2. How do you feel in situations like that?

# The journey to the slaughterhouse

Eeeeeendlessly sloooooow....

Hours go by, still your parents' car is rolling down the motorway. Endlessly slow the number of kilometres are decreasing on the blue signs on the side of the road. Eeeeeendlessly sloooooow!

And if that wasn't enough now you have to go to the loo, get hungry and thirsty, your leg goes to sleep because you're sharing the backseat with two other people and the radio announcer says that the traffic jam in front of you is already more than twenty kilometres long. And all of this in the middle of summer without air conditioning.

So: That was the bad news! The good news is that you can pester your parents until they stop at a rest area. There you can go to the toilet, eat and drink something, shake out your numb leg or wait until the traffic jam or indeed the summer is over.

Animals can't do any of this when they are carted to the slaughterhouse frequently in very cramped conditions and for hours or even days.



**If live animals are taken to an abattoir or another farm by truck, by ship, by plane or by train then we call that animal transports. Within the EU the “Guideline for the Protection of Animals during Transport” prescribes the maximum transport duration of eight hours. However under certain conditions (special vehicles, breaks) the journeys can be extended indefinitely. Depending on species the animals are stored on several decks: e.g. Horses one level, cattle two levels, sheep and calves three levels and young animals (lambs, calves) four levels. Calves travel for 30 hours from Spain to Germany, bulls from Germany to the Lebanon for up to eight days. Transports of animals, e.g. by ship from Australia to Egypt, take up to three weeks.**

Regularly you can hear pleas from animal welfare organisations that the regulations for animal transports are still not sufficient. Because every year there are still hundreds of thousands of animals dying during transport or at the abattoirs before they can actually be slaughtered. Usually the heat on the truck, the lack of space or the lack of water leads to the collapse of the animal.

## What has to be considered?

In the stable and during loading it is already important to handle the animals carefully. After all something new and unusual is happening. Panic can occur quite quickly. The animals should be moved quietly and in small groups through the shed and onto the trailer. Then begins the journey to the abattoir. If the driver drives like a mad man and frequently brakes naturally the animals will panic. Jolts should be avoided. Apart from that it is important that enough fresh air gets into the pens. It can't be too hot or too cold. The interesting thing is that there

is a direct correlation between the space available to the animals and the quality of the meat. Pigs for example require enough space for all of them to be able to lie down during the journey; otherwise the pressure is too much. It's the same at the slaughterhouse. Again the rule applies: The animals have to be moved into the pens quietly and in small groups. There they have to have enough space. Very good are water sprinklers. They calm the animals down before they are stunned and slaughtered.

## In the abattoir around the corner?

The times when farm animals were slaughtered directly at the nearest abattoir at the end of their lives are well and truly over for most of these animals. Large numbers of cattle, pigs, calves, chickens, turkeys and other commercial farm animals are bought by merchants. They often take the animals to the abattoir that pays the best price. All too often that means long transports. A lot of transport

operators are adhering to the rules and are indeed thankful if experts tell them how to transport the animals in a more gentle way. Like everywhere else there are also black sheep. They know exactly how to make the most money from the animals. They don't care how much the animals suffer during the transport when they for example get carted right through Europe or even as far as into the Middle East.

## What can you do?

Very simple! Find out where the meat that you buy and eat comes from. If the animals were slaughtered close to where they live everything is ok! Otherwise it isn't.



## Task:

Why is it that frozen meat doesn't get transported instead of live animals?

# An A4 sheet of paper to live on



## “I am the Egg man?”

Katie was virtually listening to music 24 hours a day. The earphones and her Rasta locks were rocking to the rhythm of the bass and her movements somehow appeared almost too casual. At least some of her classmates thought so. “But”, Katie said matter-of-factly, “what would you know about seventies music anyway!” To them Katie seemed even weirder when she sang along to lyrics like “I am the egg man” or something similar. Who was that supposed to be – ‘the egg man’?

Once again they had to laugh about Katie’s singing. Then Emily braced herself and tapped her on the shoulder until she took off the earphones and asked her: “Who on earth is the egg man?” Katie shook her head but then had to laugh as well.

“It’s ‘I am the ape man’, and it is a Kinks’ classic of the seventies. It’s about someone who is sick of civilisation and its effects on the environment and wants to be an apeman.” Suddenly Katie was looking stern: “The egg man – that really is a thing of the past! Where in Germany is there still an egg man delivering the eggs? Have you even got the slightest idea about how most of the layer hens here in Germany live?” Emily swallowed. She really loved eggs for breakfast but how the hens live.....?

Up until the fifties most chickens lived on farms, ran around outside during the day and slept in the chicken coop at night. The demand for eggs grew and grew, especially in the industry. The farmers kept more chickens, space in the barn became more limited.

This confinement brought with it problems with diseases and parasites. To satisfy the demand for eggs and at the same time get rid of the disease problems cage farming was introduced. Subsequently more and more hens lived on an area smaller than an A4 sheet of paper. Fortunately the demand for eggs from alternative farming practices has increased to more than 60 percent.

## Ban of conventional cage farming

In Germany conventional cage farming is banned since the start of 2009. An alternative husbandry system was introduced: the so-called small group system or small coop. Apart from that existing “enriched cages” are permissible by EU-law. Though the layer hens have only slightly more space in these. Where the old cages had absolutely no structure the small coop is furnished with a darkened nest for undisturbed egg laying, a scratch mat and perches at various heights. The vast majority of the small coops still have wire mesh flooring. The small coops still don’t allow the animals to appropriately express their natural behaviour patterns like the so-called roosting and the stretching and flapping of the wings.

## You have to search for it in cake!

By now the mandatory labelling of eggs (see right page) has made it easy to decide which eggs to buy; whether we want to buy an egg that was laid in a cage, in a barn, free range or on an organic farm. But about half the eggs eaten in Germany don’t end up in the egg carton at the supermarket. Instead they are used by the food industry for further processing. This industry is hard at work to produce baked goods, mayonnaise, pasta, sandwich spreads, sauces and many other foods from it. More than 95% of the eggs used in this way originate from cage farming.

“Eggs” are mentioned on the packaging but that’s it. There is no obligation to say anything else. And what producer would voluntarily have “Cage farmed eggs” printed on the wrapping of their pasta, sauces, cakes or dough. You might want to ask your baker where he actually gets the eggs for his cake. Maybe his answer is a little friendlier than the one of the frosty gentleman in the illustration on the right.

Shopping for pasta, cake, sauces and all the other egg containing products is made quite difficult by the lack of proper labelling on the packaging. Just about the only option remaining is to do away with the named products or only buy those that make a clear statement that the used eggs are from free range or organic farming.



# Break the secret egg code!



If we want to do something today in order for the chickens to be better off we have to first investigate thoroughly how the hens live from which our eggs originate. The good thing is: 0, 1, 2 or 3 – the answer is on the egg. Please pick up an egg. You find a code printed onto it. The first digit is indicating the type of husbandry system.



## 0 – Organic farming

There are uniform requirements within the EU for eggs of organic origin. The access to an open-air free range for layer hens is mandatory. A maximum of six layer hens per square meter is permitted inside the barn. Apart from that feed from organic farms has to be used. In this form of farming the animals are well looked after.



## 1 – Free range farming

Besides their shed with perches, nests and bedding free-range hens have the opportunity to run around outside during the day. Here the hens can express their natural behaviour patterns and satisfy their desire to move. A minimum area of four meters square is available for every hen. Problems do occur when groups are too big. That is because in these cases not all the hens find their way to the outdoor area.



## 2 – Barn farming

The chickens are kept in a barn and are able to move around freely. A minimum of one third of the barn has bedding. The rest of the floor is furnished with lattice and metal gratings. The nests are built on several floors. In barn farming the hens can sometimes express their natural behaviour patterns like scratching, dust bathing and flapping of the wings. But frequently so many animals are kept in a barn that it is too **confined**.



## 3 – Cage farming (small group system and enriched EU-cage)

The hens are kept in cages that are stacked above each other on several levels. In comparison to the conventional cages these are just bigger ones for more hens. The animals stand on wire mesh. Perches and nests are totally inadequate. The eggs roll along a floor grate with a gradient straight onto a conveyor belt. The hens live in extremely cramped conditions and have no opportunity to follow their natural behaviour patterns. Have another look on page 8 at what chickens need for a life appropriate to the species. Then take a look at the photo to the right. What do you notice?



**You can see: While shopping you have a direct influence on whether hens have to live in tight cages.**

By the way, the two letters on the egg stand for the country of origin (UK= United Kingdom, DE=Germany, AT=Austria, IT=Italy, NL=Netherlands, BE=Belgium). The following numerical code of seven digits indicates the respective country identification (e.g. the federal state) as well as the farm and the shed number. Every EU-member country has an individual system to allocate a registration number to the farms.



### Tasks:

Explain the slogan “No egg with a three!”  
What do you think is meant if you see the following on a banner:  
„QAM = Quality Assured Misery“?



# “The smallest cat is a masterpiece“

## The Frankenstein of the Renaissance?

Leonardo da Vinci had enough time when the inquisitors (a kind of church police) charged in. With a jerk he moved a lever, the table top in front of him turn, underside turned into topside. In place of the dead human that da Vinci had tied to one side you could now see a dead pig. It was opened for a post mortem just like the human body. Da Vinci just couldn't contain his hunger for knowledge although the pope had explicitly forbidden the dissection of humans. In any case the inquisitors left again. The dissection of dead pigs wasn't forbidden after all.

Reportedly this is what happened in the early sixteenth century when da Vinci and other scientist studied the human anatomy usually on bodies of hung delinquents. There are people who call Leonardo the Frankenstein of the Renaissance for this reason. Others think of him as the greatest scientist who ever lived. You can see one of his drawings on the right.



Besides all the discoveries that da Vinci has left us: He said himself that through all his research he was always aware of one thing:

**“Even the smallest cat is a masterpiece!”**

This remark makes it quite clear: Da Vinci had the utmost respect for the creature of nature, for humans, animals and plants. It was also very clear to him that animals could suffer just like us humans do:

**“The animals suffer und fill the air with their wailing.”**

Apparently da Vinci never experimented on live animals. Despite that he was full of yearning to research and felt totally compelled to strive for knowledge. After all he wanted to find out as much as possible about humans and the whole world in general. Just like many of today's scientists. However these often struggle in a particular conflict: That is to say that current research quite frequently involves experiments with live animals.

Scientists that want to conduct animal experiments indeed don't have to act illegally like Leonardo. That is to say that they are allowed to carry out animal experiments for “a reasonable cause” if they comply with a whole number of regulations and laws despite the animals suffering and feeling pain during these experiments.



### The conscience conflict

“The scientist scratched his forehead just like scientists do. He squinted and slowly read through the results he had so far. Again he scratched, again he squinted. He had arrived at a point in his studies where he had to conduct new experiments to get ahead. Experiments with animals. These animals would experience fear, suffer pain and die in order for him to maybe conclude his research soon. He was researching a new remedy against cancer. The new drug that might come as a result of his research could maybe save human lives and prevent humans from suffering pain. Before that however many animals would suffer and die through his experiments. The scientist scratched his forehead again.”

### Task:

How do we recognise that animals suffer pain or fear?

# The animal welfare law – a solution?

Let's take the German Animal Welfare Act for example. It states quite clearly: It is the duty of every person in Germany who is involved with animals to protect their life and welfare:

**After all animals are our fellow beings!**

We are not allowed to inflict on them "pain, suffering or injury without reasonable cause" it says in the Animal Welfare Act. That also applies to animal experiments. However it is being fiercely debated what might constitute a reasonable cause. And of course it's not logical that on one side Germany has an Animal Welfare Act and on the other side have animals suffer and die in the course of animal experiments.



To the scientist from the story above the Animal Welfare Act means that his new animal experiments will only be approved by the authorities if he can give "a reasonable cause" for them.

## **But what could be a reasonable cause?**

According to the Animal Welfare Act almost everything that has a "benefit" to humans is classed as a reasonable cause. The "reasonable cause" becomes quite evident in where it is stated: It is permissible to inflict pain, suffering and injuries on animals in the course of the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of diseases, for the identification of threats to the environment, for the testing of ingredients or products with regards to their safety and while progressing

elementary science (new questions in research).

Many people interpret this paragraph of the Animal Welfare Act in the way that the scientists are free to conduct all manner of experiments. That's obviously not quite the case. According to the Animal Welfare Act scientists are obliged to demonstrate how much suffering, pain or injury is going to be inflicted on the animals, what the "benefits" of the experiment to us humans are and which questions they would like to have answered by this experiment. Then the authorities start their consideration whether the experiment is going to be allowed. There are scientists who complain about the fact that they "have to have countless approvals" in order to conduct their experiments. Time and time again you hear that research "is being stifled" by this.

## **The critique**

Many animal welfare and animal rights organizations have criticised for years that the approval process hardly stops any animal experiment. The German organisation "Doctors against animal experiments" for example disapproves of "animal experiments for procedural, medical and moral reasons". The members have the following view: "In animal experiments animals are artificially made sick to mimic human diseases while the true causes of many diseases of civilisation like cancer, heart attack, stroke and diabetes are disregarded. The vast majority of these diseases are caused by smoking, alcohol, lack of exercise and wrong diet. All things that we humans ourselves can influence."

**We should never lose sight of the fact:  
Behind the consideration whether an animal experiment can be justified or not  
there hide two rather big questions:**

**Is science allowed to do everything it is capable of doing?  
What is it not allowed?**

**There are a thousand answers to this question with totally different opinions:**

- Some scientist think that we have the right to discover all the secrets of this world and that nothing is allowed stand in the way of this right. If animals have to suffer for it that can't be avoided, they say.
- Many people are of the opinion that experiments on creatures able to feel pain should not be endorsed regardless whether they have a benefit or not.
- Many doctors and scientists are convinced that animal experiments are an unnecessary and wrong research method that does more harm than good to humans. They say that curiosity, an obsession with their image along with old fashioned thinking patterns are leading a lot of scientists to conduct ever more ill considered experiments.
- Many scientists however are trying to find a middle ground. This is made up of the three R's which we will decipher on the next page.

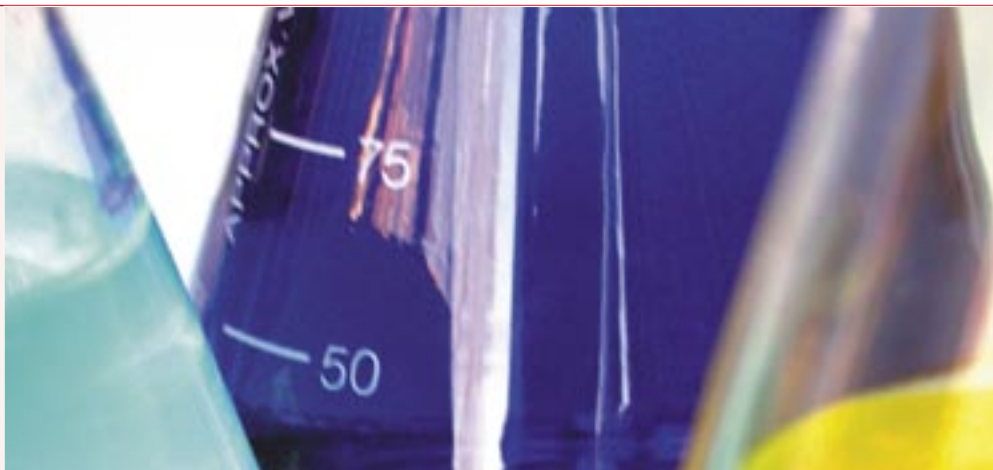


## **Task:**

Are you always right if the law is on your side?

## The 3R-principle

“Rrr...” made the scientist and winked to her young colleague. He pulled a face as if Harry Potter himself had kissed him. “Rrr...” she made again. Actually all he had wanted to know was how he should plan his latest experiment and whether an animal experiment might be necessary. The only answer he got from his older colleague was this weird gargling “rrr...”. Suddenly she went quiet and smiled at him. “We should always have the 3R-principle in the back of our heads when we are planning an experiment”, she said. The young man was perplexed.



As early as the year 1959 Bill Russell and Rex Burch were getting sick of the fact that so many experiments were conducted on animals. The anger about that led them to their “Principle of the 3R’s”. Those three stand for the expressions Reduction, Refinement, Replacement.

Russell and Burch suggested: One should have a closer look at which animal experiments have been conducted at some stage somewhere around the world. If these could be acknowledged less animal experiments would be needed and it would be possible to reduce the number of animals in research (Reduction). How can we gather more information from the individual experiment? How can we gain the same amount of information with fewer animals? Russell and Burch asked these questions.

- The scientists should better plan their experiments and contemplate how the suffering of the animals can be reduced (Refinement).
- The consideration to entirely substitute the animal experiment with a different method without animals (e.g. computer simulation/ cell cultures) is hiding behind the third R, the Replacement.

### Common ground for a dialogue

At first hardly anybody was interested in the thoughts of Russell and Burch. But by now their 3R-principle has gained quite a bit of recognition and is recommended by the scientists of the European Union and the European Science Foundation (ESF), the association of organisations for research funding of all states in Europe. Apart from that the three R’s

provide common ground for a dialogue to animal welfare supporters opposed to the experiments and researchers who think they are necessary.

### Who’s right?

While the growing recognition of the three R’s is applauded by many scientists, politicians and animal welfare supporters; there are also a large number of animal welfare supporters and scientists who are convinced that there is no need for a single animal experiment to advance research. It is said that many results of animal experiments aren’t even transferable to humans. The critics point out that many drugs that had had ample testing on

animals had to be taken off the market because of severe, sometimes deadly, side effects; and diseases like cancer still can’t be cured despite years of animal experiments. Many scientists are of a totally different opinion and mention the successes of medicine. Nobody knows exactly who’s right.

**One thing is for certain: Animal experiments need to be abolished. The development of alternatives to animal experiments is the majorly important task of the scientists. And not just here in Germany but everywhere in the world.**

So, are there alternatives to the “three R’s”? Yes, a “fourth R”!

In the year 1995 the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences created quite a stir. In their “Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Scientific Animal Experiments” there is the by now famous article 4.6. It states:

**“Experiments that cause severe suffering for the animal must be avoided.”**

The article 4.6 even applies in cases in which the scientists are hoping for a major increase in knowledge from the experiments. The Swiss really have given a new impetus to question the implementation of an animal experiment even if there could be quite a gain. They therefore have actually added a courageous fourth R to the 3R’s: The R for “Refuse” (decline an animal experiment).



### Task:

It would certainly be best not to get sick in the first place!  
What can you do to benefit your health?

# What actually does get tested?

... then Ben heard the punks' answer!

The two punks in front of the supermarket were slowly starting to try Ben's patience. Every now and then he would give them a few cents but somehow they had forgotten all about it by the time he came back out of the supermarket. And then they would have another go at him. "Either their brains have gone all spongy from drinking beer", thought Ben, "or I'm spending too much time in the shop?" Maybe that was the reason after all. In fact Ben quite liked to browse through the aisles and to let himself be swept through the world of wares. There are thousands of products in an ordinary supermarket. So it can take some time until you have had a proper look around and made a decision. "It's much easier for the punks", thought Ben and couldn't help but grin, "they always buy the cheapest beer anyway." "That's best for our bodies", they had once joked at the checkout, "after all we've tested this stuff for years."

Ben almost felt a bit sick when he looked at the punks and noticed how sick they looked and what a detrimental effect all that alcohol testing had had on them.

"Sure", the checkout lady had said to the punks, "there are only tested products here."

Then Ben heard the punks' answer.

"Only tested products? Sure, most of them on animals!"

The checkout lady had looked quite distraught.

Just like Ben.



**Certainly, the products we buy are supposed to be safe. That's why they get tested on animals, often for years, before they go to market.**

If unwanted side effects result from a product the producer cannot be held liable as long as he has complied with all legal requirements including animal experiments prior to its release. Unfortunately there aren't legally accepted alternatives for all required tests, yet. Then the labs have no other choice: If they want to comply with the law they have to conduct animal experiments because of the lack of alternatives. Although animal experiments are frequently used as an alibi which we as customers readily accept. The producers create the impression that products that have been extensively tested on animals are safe for us humans. But that is not the case!

**Animal experiments are behind:**

**Drugs, chemicals, laundry detergents, household cleaners, skin lotions, gases, acids, lubricants and many, many other things as well. Everything that somehow comes in contact with us humans gets tested. Regardless whether we eat, drink, breathe it, smear it on our bodies, clean with it, wash, lubricate, spray or fertilise our fields with it.**

**Where else are animal experiments carried out?**

**In elementary science there are animal experiments also. A lot of the time this is also about researching diseases. In those experiments animals are made sick artificially. The researchers implant them with tumors, create strokes or cut off the blood supply to the brain. Then they investigate what's happening and new treatment methods are researched. Other experiments are meant to illuminate how the animal body functions.**

**In genetic technology** scientists manipulate genetic material of rats and mice. The animals develop diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's or rheumatic arthritis that are very similar to the human versions. The researchers study these animal diseases in order to develop therapies for humans. Did you ever see someone who suffers from one of these diseases? The animals with those artificially induced diseases in genetic technology and elementary science suffer just as much.

**At some German universities** for example students of human or veterinary medicine as well as biology as part of their studies are still required to participate in animal experiments or to dissect killed animals. In this way the theory is clarified. It is pleasing that today more and more of these experiments are replaced by study programs on the computer.

## Tasks:

Find out: Which animals do get used? How many experiments are carried out?

You'll find the answers on: [www.walk-the-dog.eu](http://www.walk-the-dog.eu)

## The secret behind make-up

“What a night”, Louisa thought and turned around once more before her mum finally dragged her out off bed. She hadn’t slept this bad for a long time. She had developed quite a crush on this guy from high school. “Now I’m even dreaming about him”, thought Louisa, “he’s not that nice after all!” Cumbersome as if led weights were attached to her legs she climbed out of bed, went to the bathroom and had a shower. The hot water woke her up a little. Louisa lathered up with shower lotion, took the shampoo and rubbed a decent dollop of it into her hair. After all she wanted to look good and smell nice in the school grounds. “You just never know”, thought Louisa while the foam ran down the sides of her face, “if the cute one doesn’t run straight into my arms today.” Some powder, a little mascara, some face cream here and a thick line of lipstick: “Ready!” Louisa looked into the mirror and clapped into her hands: “Bring it on!”

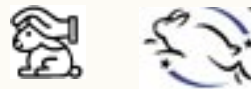
**Surely the last things Louisa wants when she meets her new darling in the school grounds are pussy pimples, nasty skin rashes, irritated mucous membranes, allergic reactions or acne attacks.**

Because Louisa would definitely never again buy the cosmetics and wash lotions she used these side effects are also certainly the last thing the producer wants. Therefore he very carefully tests his products before they go to market. On top of that he tests whether they are carcinogenic or alter genetic material or maybe have an effect on fertility. In many cases these tests are still done on animals. In most cases they cause the animals pain.

**Louisa is caught between a rock and a hard place. Obviously she wants to look nice and use make-up. But for animals to suffer during the tests, she definitely doesn’t want that either.**

Within the EU animal experiments for the testing of already available cosmetic products were banned in September 2004 while the ingredients could still be tested in animal experiments. The ban of these were postponed again and again because alternative methods didn’t exist. On the 11th of March 2009 this has come to an end for almost all cosmetic’s testing. The ban will come into effect for the remaining tests on the 11th of March 2013. The additional EU-wide marketing ban prevents manufacturers from transferring animal experiments into non-EU countries and subsequently selling the products that were tested in this way inside the EU. So, what can Louisa do: The competition in the doll up department is tough but she hates it if animals suffer.

Well, the solution is pretty simple:



If you for example see the „leaping bunny“ on the right on the packaging of your lipsticks, eyeshadow or mascara the clear meaning is: in accordance with the “Humane Cosmetic Standard” no animal experiments have been conducted, neither in the production nor in the marketing of these products. In addition the licensed producers only cooperate with suppliers who guarantee the complete refraining from animal experiments for their ingredients.

**If Louisa tells her new darling that no animal had to suffer for her make-up her chances will surely increase enormously.**



# Light at the end of the tunnel?



**“Animals are suffering in humans’ stead” – if you want to talk about animal experiments you should always keep this sentence in mind. Humans conduct these experiments to cure human diseases, prolong human life and to guarantee as much safety as possible to us as consumers. So, whoever takes advantage of modern medicine and the multitude of products in our department stores accepts animal experiments either consciously or subconsciously. The story about Kenny on the right gives some idea of the conflicts of conscience that can occur especially if someone is dependent on a drug.**

By now many scientists are researching options for replacing the animals in the experiments with something that doesn’t feel pain or know fear. In these alternative methods animal or human cells are used, bacteria examined in test tubes (in-vitro systems/ Latin: vitro=glass), experiments conducted on chicken eggs or on a computer.

## How long is it going to take?

At this point in time sadly most of the money is still going into research projects that involve animal experiments. The rolling “rrr” that the scientist in the story on page 16 is whispering into her colleagues ear could therefore be sounded even louder and more urgent. The research into alternatives to animal experiments is worldwide. Additional energy and research funds have to be expended in order to finally establish this research and make animal experiments a thing of the past.

## “That’s what it is all about“

Julie is an animal welfare teacher. She visits schools and explains to the students how the animals fare in our care. “The subject of animal experiments is one of the hardest subjects of them all”, says Julie. In the lessons she talks about how the animals suffer during the experiments.

“But”, and Julie’s voice sounds sad when she talks about it, “unfortunately we can’t stop all experiments overnight either. There still aren’t enough accepted alternative methods and law changes and they don’t happen just like that either. Therefore animals will continue to suffer in our stead.” Julie wipes her brown locks from her face and tells a little story. “Once after a lesson a student named Kenny who looked very sad came to me”, says Julie. “Kenny had remembered exactly where animal experiments were carried out and asked a question.” “Have animal experiments been carried out on my asthma spray?”, asked Kenny.

“Unfortunately, yes”, Julie answered. Now Kenny looked even more dejected. “But I have to use it”, he said, “otherwise I can hardly breathe.” Julie looked sad as well. “I know”, she said, “unfortunately often there is no other choice.”

Kenny’s eyes welled up with tears. Julie rummaged in her bag for a few lines of the Russian writer Leo Tolstoi she had found and read them out:

**If you can’t kill a human – good.**

**If you can’t kill stock or birds – better.**

**No fish or insects – better still.**

**Strive to get as far as possible. Don’t worry about what’s possible and what is not.**

**Do what is within your power.**

**That’s what it is all about.**

“Although you have to take the asthma spray you can still try and do a lot for the animals”, said Julie. “But what?”, asked the boy.

Then Julie took a pen and in large letters wrote the internet address [www.walk-the-dog.eu](http://www.walk-the-dog.eu) on a piece of paper for Kenny. There and on the last page of this *Walk the dog!*-magazine you find a lot of options to do something for our fellow beings.

**For too long science has accepted the animal experiment as the principal approach and as a result closed down other avenues. That’s why no one can claim that our medicine wouldn’t have reached today’s standard without animal experiments – we might even be further and better? Nobody today can give the answer to this question any**

**longer. Now we have to look towards the future – a future without animal experiments!**



## Only a foolish saying?

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!”  
You could discuss it in class sometime.

# Shopping and more shopping

A lot of humans don't like to read about the issues on the previous pages. Frequently they try to avoid any contact with these altogether because it gives them a bad feeling. A big part of this is the helplessness that overcomes them. One would really like to do something to improve the fate of the animals. But what?

After all one can't do magic like Harry Potter, isn't a celebrity like Pink or Eminem, not a great politician or an action hero. However the good thing is: There is a weapon stronger than all action heroes and almost better than Harry's magic wand. This thing is usually parked outside supermarkets, unless it's being used by some punks to romp around the suburb: The shopping trolley.



What you put into this trolley has a direct impact on how the animals that you learnt about on the previous pages live and die. You can use this trolley to change the life of some pigs, cattle or chickens or you can see to it that soon fewer dogs, cats, rats or monkeys are used in animal experiments. Sure, your shopping is only of billions in the whole world but it can be considerable.

And if you then tell everyone what shopping in this way can achieve it turns into shopping and more shopping like a flash...

## Logo!

... and suddenly more and more people might be doing something for the animals. Think about the code on the eggs that you have deciphered, the 0 and 1 are the clear winners here. Have a closer look at the logos of meat, egg products, but also the shampoo bottles, soaps, lipstick and toothpaste packaging and only buy these products if the logo gives you the green light! Our extensive internet pages give you an overview of all the important logos and a multitude of tips for animal welfare conform shopping.

If someone is just about to take one of the products for which our fellow beings have suffered simply explain to them what's behind it. Some of them will give you the finger, some will listen, someone else may laugh or take note or walk away or buy something else. Anyway, it is exciting to

see what happens when you show people that many of them have got no idea about what they are putting into their shopping trolleys.

Other than that: Write songs about animal welfare, the egg-blues or the ballad of the animal experiment, draw pictures or posters, write poems, novels or penny dreadfuls and do a play. There are thousands of things you can do to ensure a better life for our fellow beings in the long run.

Have lots of fun doing that!

What's wrong with you? Well, try and suggest that to Dad, smarty pants...

Why don't we rather buy less meat and make sure it's from happy pigs instead?



These logos show the way: These products are the right choice!



## Walk the dog!

Das Schulprojekt zu Mensch & Tier

Walk the dog! is a project of the:

Erna-Graff-Stiftung Berlin



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Sieglindestr. 4, 12159 Berlin, Germany  
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