

Research ethics

Human and non-human animals

Why do psychologists study animals? 46

Studying animals gives us the understanding of many behaviors that may have common biology across animals and humans.



D. Shapiro, © Wildlife Conservation Society

Is it ethical to experiment on animals? 46-48

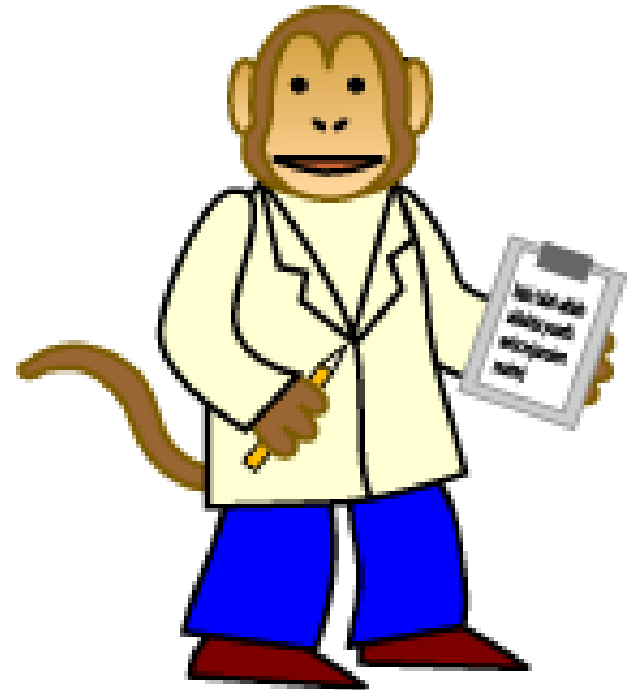
Yes, says author David Myers

1 To gain insights to devastating and fatal diseases.

2 All researchers who deal with animal research are required to follow ethical guidelines in caring for these animals.

Hand out 1-15, pp. 46-48

- Read each case and decide if it can be approved. 1 pt.
- On what ethical or research basis? 1 pt.
- Must cite an argument/reason from pp. 46-48 in book to get credit.



When can animals be used?

- Case 1
- Issue: Whether injury to another species closely related to humans is justified if the results will be applicable to humans

Case 2

- Issue
- This is pure research. There is no direct human application.

Case 3

- Issue
- Whether pound animals should be used.
- Several states have banned use for biomedical purposes or for student surgeries in veterinarian schools.

Case 4

- Issue
- Animal welfare groups say this is unnecessary. Video and computer simulations are adequate substitutions.

Dr. Peter Venkman's flawed research: How NOT to do science!

Flawed methodology

Corrupt research ethics



Ethics in Research, 48

- Famously flawed?
- 1. Little Albert classical conditioning experiment
- 2. Milgram's Obedience study
- 3. Zimbardo's Prison role-play experiment

Ethical Guidelines (APA), 48

- 1. Informed consent.
- Participation should be voluntary and based on informed consent: subjects should know what is involved so they can make the decision to participate. Subjects may withdraw at any time.

Ethics: Protection from harm

- 2. There should be no exposure to harmful procedures.
- Researchers should make every effort to ensure that subjects aren't physically or psychologically harmed by the experiment

Debriefing

- 3. Any deception must be promptly explained during debriefing.
- The deception should be such that it would not have affected the subject's decision to participate.

Experimental ethics: Privacy

- 4. The right to privacy shall be maintained.
- Subject's names and experiment results/data shall not be identified.

Assignment: Ethics with Human subjects

- Hint: Two of the five experiments are not violations of any ethical principles.

Ethics answers

- 1. No violation
- This research is called naturalistic observation.
- Researchers can go into the public and observe people's behavior. In a public space you have less expectation of privacy concerns.

No. 2

- Yes, there is a violation.
- Participation in experiments should be voluntary
- Subjects should be allowed to withdraw at any time. The grad. Student told the students in the course that participation was a requirement.
- The professor running the experiment should give better guidelines to his/her researchers.

No. 3

- No violation.
- Deception is justified where no one was harmed. Knowledge of the experimental design given to the subjects must include everything that might affect a person's decision about whether or not to participate

No. 4

- There was psychological harm here that was not addressed with the subjects prior to the experiment.
- Subjects could actually think they were hurting real people and the experiment didn't do anything to adjust the experiment when they complained.

No. 5

- Deception harmed the subjects psychologically.
- Don't tell people they are getting \$500 grants when they are really not going to get this money.
- College students are put into an unnecessarily vulnerable position when they think they are getting financial assistance from the university and they are deceived. This could affect their ability to attend.