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## Investigation Exposes Horrifying Treatment of Lab Animals



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An recent undercover [investigation](#) exposed horrifying treatment of animals used in toxicity tests at a Canadian lab. Beagles, mini pigs and macaques are all seen confined in small cages, prodded and restrained — where they will stay for a lifetime when they're not being used in tests before they're eventually killed.

Some are seen having chemicals pumped into their stomachs or put on their skin while they're in restraints, while more of these cruel tests were conducted in full view of other animals, which is known to cause stress and is illegal.

The [investigation](#) was conducted over a four-month period in 2016 by an investigator for [Last Chance for Animals](#) (LCA) at International Toxicology Research Canada (ITR), located in Baie d'Urfe, Quebec, which is hired by other companies to test the toxicity of their products on mini pigs, beagles and macaques, in addition to mice, rats and rabbits.

The footage released is incredibly disturbing, and shows not only the suffering of animals [who were exposed to chemicals](#) during tests, but also blatant unrelated abuse by lab techs in charge of handling and caring for them.

Techs ignored clear signs of physical and emotional stress and didn't report them, left animals to suffer with untreated wounds and infections, while others still were caught violently throwing, slamming and hitting animals.

*Warning: Graphic Content*



Researchers are required to minimize animal suffering, but they didn't even come close at this facility. While a lot of what was uncovered is clearly cruel and abusive, much of what was seen was also illegal. According to LCA, the investigator [documented](#) numerous violations of Canadian laws, including the Animal Welfare and Safety Act, the Regulation Respecting the Safety and Welfare of Cats and Dogs, the Act respecting the Conservation and Development of Wildlife and the Regulations Respecting Wildlife in Captivity.

LCA has since turned over the evidence it gathered with complaints with several agencies and is pushing for a full investigation and charges to be laid against ITR's management.

“Last Chance for Animals urge MAPAQ to act swiftly to enforce egregious violations of law at ITR Canada,” [said](#) Adam Wilson, Director of Investigations for LCA. “Striking puppies, slamming monkeys, and burning the backs of pigs with caustic substances is illegal even when done in the name of science.”

It’s heartbreaking to see how little regard is given towards the lives of lab animals, and more offensive that the problem is still much [wider](#) than this one facility, and the companies that supply it.

Hopefully the cruelty uncovered here will not be overlooked or tolerated by the authorities that have the power to do something about it, and more [researchers](#) will continue to move towards progressive [alternatives](#) to animal tests that are cheaper, ethical and reliable.

For more on how to help support the prosecution of those involved in this case, visit [Last Chance for Animals](#).