


Do you know that the creams that you use or the medicines that you take had been tested on animals? Have you ever wondered if it is right to test on these animals? Can we, as Catholics, use them for research or experiments? Let me answer these questions with my experience.

As a researcher I had to work with mice and it pained me that I had to use them for experiments. I even thought that God would punish me for using the mice. As a normal God-fearing person, this thought kept bothering me. But I had to think like a scientist and that's where I found the answer to whether it was right to use animals for research.

There are numerous examples in the Holy Bible of using animals for labour, transportation, food and

including clothing: **John was clothed in a garment of camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist** (Matthew 3:4). Also when God created them and entrusted their care and use to mankind, **He said: 'Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth'** (Genesis 1:28). This gives us the authority over animals.

In light of these, the Catholic Church teaches that medical and scientific

experimentation on animals should be done 'within reasonable limits' and only to care for and save human lives. The phrase **care and save human lives** caught my attention as I was doing the same as a researcher and this makes sense when I think like a scientist. I know that by myself I cannot save human lives but the thought that I am contributing to the betterment of our health and saving mankind makes me feel that I am a true Catholic and a scientist. 

ANIMAL RESEARCH AND THE CHURCH

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