

# Summer 2016 Directive

## Part 1: Using animals for research

Experiments on animals are widely used to understand disease and to develop and test new medicines. However, using animals for this kind of research remains controversial. Is animal research necessary to understand and improve human health, or are there other ethical issues to consider?

Please start each part of your Directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number, sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember *not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently* within your reply. It is best to use initials instead of real names.

Before you read on, please note down the immediate phrases or images that come to mind when you hear the term 'laboratory animal research'.

### Thinking back

Over the years, there have been many highly publicised examples of animal experiments, and coverage of protests against animal research. Are there any examples that you specifically remember?

Have any media stories you may have seen prompted you to have conversations with friends or family about this topic? Have your own views on the subject changed over time?

### Everyday life

Do you have any personal experience of working in an environment where research using animals was/is carried out?

Were animals used in science classes at your school or college? How did you feel about this at the time, and do you have any reflections now looking back?

When taking medicines or buying them for you and your family members, to what extent do you think about the scientific research on animals that went into producing them?

### Policy and practice

What are your impressions of the people who work in laboratories that use animals for research?

Are there some species of animal that shouldn't be used for research, and other species that are more acceptable? Please give details.

Some people claim that the general public needs to know more about animal research, and that more 'openness' from scientists and the government is therefore needed. What do you think of this suggestion?

## Part 2: Being 'thrifty'

This Directive is about how you manage resources around the house. Do you 'make do and mend', or do you prefer to buy new when something is broken? Those who have been writing for MO for a while may remember that we issued a similar Directive in the 1980s. This Directive revisits the subject to see if, and how, things have changed.

### Being thrifty

What do you think of when you think of thrift or being thrifty?

Is being thrifty generational? Can you remember your parents or grandparents doing anything specifically to save resources?

Do you have any objects, handed down to you, which you still use today (kitchen utensils; furniture, gardening equipment or tools)? Why do you keep these? Are they better than the ones you can buy today?

Have you noticed any resurgence in the notion of being 'thrifty'? If yes, why has this happened?

### You

What things do you do to be economical with your resources? Maybe you collect rainwater, or darn socks? Are you committed to knitting, mechanics, baking or DIY? Maybe you never waste food, preferring to freeze it or give it away? Please share any tips, no matter how trivial you might think they are!

Do you do any of these activities for pleasure (as a hobby)? Or, do you do them out of necessity to save money?

### Thrift and time

Have these tasks become part of your everyday routine? Do you do things at set times every day or week or perhaps every month/season/year? Does being thrifty take time and planning?

### Thrift and waste

How does being thrifty relate to being environmentally responsible? Is this a new thing? Are we all consuming too much? What about the push to reduce food waste?

What do the terms 'upcycling, recycling and reuse' mean to you? Do you do any/ all of these things? How do you do them?

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## **Your neighbourhood**

Thinking now about your neighbours, do you share things with them such as food or tools? How much do you rely on them to help you out with lending, borrowing and sharing, or helping with tasks around the home? If not your neighbours, what other networks or groups do you rely upon to get by?

## **Local events**

The 1987 Directive talked specifically about Jumble Sales. These seem to be a thing of the past, but what other events are popular in your community?

Please let us know if you have seen any thrifty events advertised in your local area. This could be a food bank, or a 'Bring and Buy' sale, Jacobs Joins, Pot Lucks or a clothes swapping party. Who attends these events? Have you attended anything like this?

Are there more or less of these events than there were 10 years ago? In what ways have they changed and in what ways have they stayed the same? Do people get more out of such events than just being thrifty, such as meeting new people and making friends? Please share any thoughts.

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Please post your response to: **Freepost: RTGU-AYJE-YSSC, The Mass Observation Archive, The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton, BN1 9BP** or by email to: [moa@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:moa@sussex.ac.uk) JS Summer Directive/No. 106