

Biomedical Research Using Animals Gave Me a Chance at Life

Research that is being done daily is giving people the chance to live, and is ending suffering. The heroic scientists that are spending countless hours slaving away in laboratories are doing just that. Biomedical research is the broad area of science that involves the investigation of the biological process and the causes of disease through observations, laboratory research, and testing especially on animals. This research contributes to the development of many lifesaving innovations. One field this research contributes to is the study of cardiovascular conditions. A common cardiovascular condition is congenital heart disease. It is one of the most common birth defects that comprises over 30 types of defects and causes “nearly 3 children out of every thousand live births have severe CHD requiring early surgery, while another 13/1000 require surgery or catheter-based intervention later in childhood” (“Congenital Heart Disease Research”, p. 1). My mother was one of these children and because of biomedical research she was able to bring me into this world.

As heart development and structures in dogs have many similarities to the human heart anatomy, the research performed on animals greatly advances the lifesaving technology. To save my mother’s life doctors have performed multiple open heart surgeries which have only been possible because of animal research. My mom has an artificial heart valve that maintains her life which was created using animal models. Starting in the 1950s to modern day there have been countless methods developed to mimic a human heart valve (“Artificial heart valves”, p. 1). By using animals in research, especially dogs, scientists have been able to eliminate, and test many different models. Many lives, including my Mom’s have been positively improved because of this very research. Using animals has led to the improved understanding of these artificial valves and

has resulted in an improved accuracy of how complications arise. Once these innovations were deemed fit they were used to not only improve, but save lives.

My mother had two children before conceiving me which had already put a considerable strain on her body. When she told the doctors she planned to have another child they advised against it for they didn't believe her heart could take the stress. However, as I am writing this today, she didn't listen. Although I believe one should always listen to their doctor, in this case I'm glad someone didn't. I don't only owe this to my mother's courage but to the thing that kept her alive through this whole process, her valve. The valve that was developed after centuries of research on animals and was tested countless times using these creatures allowed for me to come into this world. Biomedical research using animals led to the creation of a device that would not only save lives but give the possibility to create them.

Bibliography

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