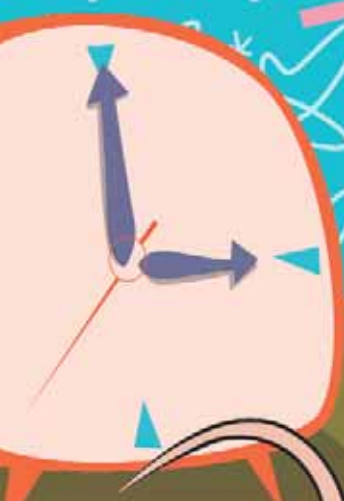
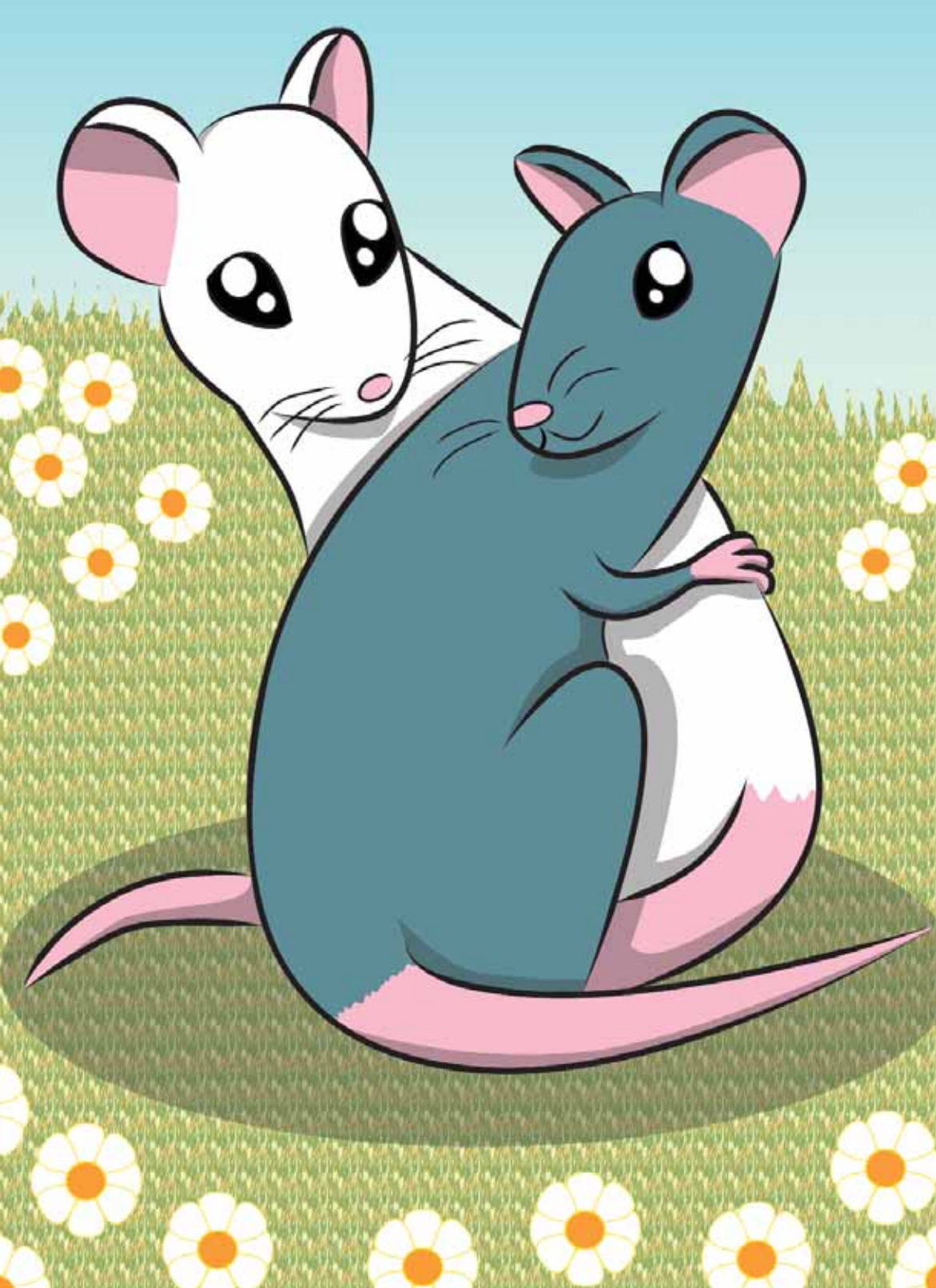




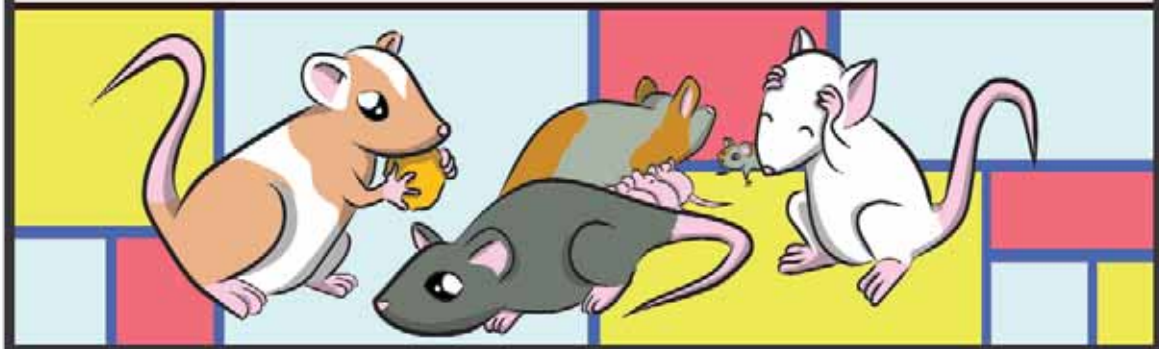
# A RAT'S LIFE





# AWESOME RATS! RATS ARE AMAZING ANIMALS! DID YOU KNOW ...

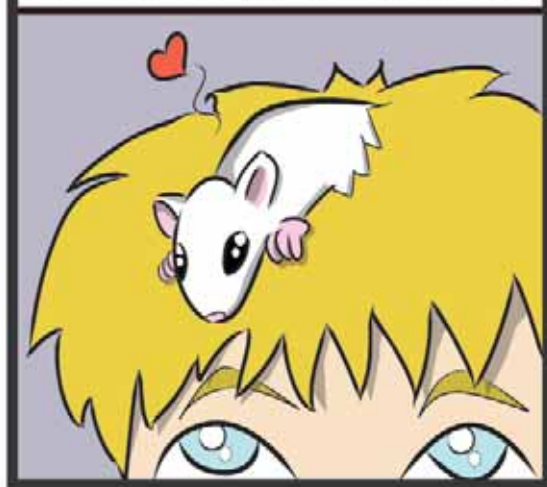
RATS ARE VERY CLEAN ABOUT THEIR BODIES AND WILL WORK REALLY HARD TO RID THEMSELVES OF DIRT. RAT FAMILIES GROW UP HEALTHY IF THEY HAVE GOOD FOOD, WATER, AND SHELTER.



IF NO ONE FORCES THEM TO LIVE IN AN UNCLEAN CAGE, THEIR SKIN HAS A NICE PERFUME-LIKE SCENT.



RATS ARE SMART, CURIOUS, AND FRIENDLY. THEY CAN BE AS OUTGOING AND GENTLE AS ANY PERSON.



IF YOU ARE NICE TO THEM, RATS CAN BE HAPPY JUST LIKE US. OF COURSE THEY ALSO FEEL PAIN JUST AS DOGS, CATS, AND WE DO.



RATS HAVE POOR EYESIGHT BUT EXCELLENT SENSES OF SMELL, TASTE, TOUCH, AND HEARING.



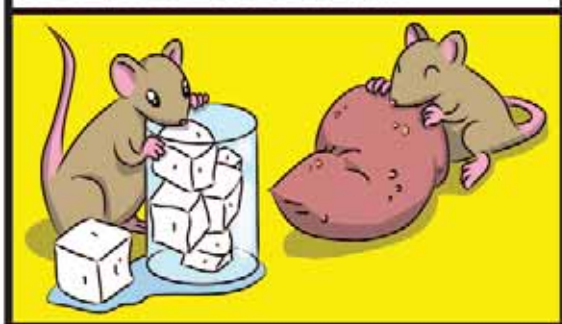




SHE LOVES TO PLAY AND GET INTO THINGS. YESTERDAY, SHE SPENT HOURS PULLING MY DIRTY CLOTHES FROM THE LAUNDRY BAG.



IF I LEAVE A GLASS OF ICE WATER ON THE FLOOR FOR HER, SHE'LL TAKE OUT EACH ICE CUBE AND CARRY IT AWAY FROM THE GLASS IN HER TEETH. SWEET POTATOES ARE HER FAVORITE TREAT. SHE LOVES THEM.



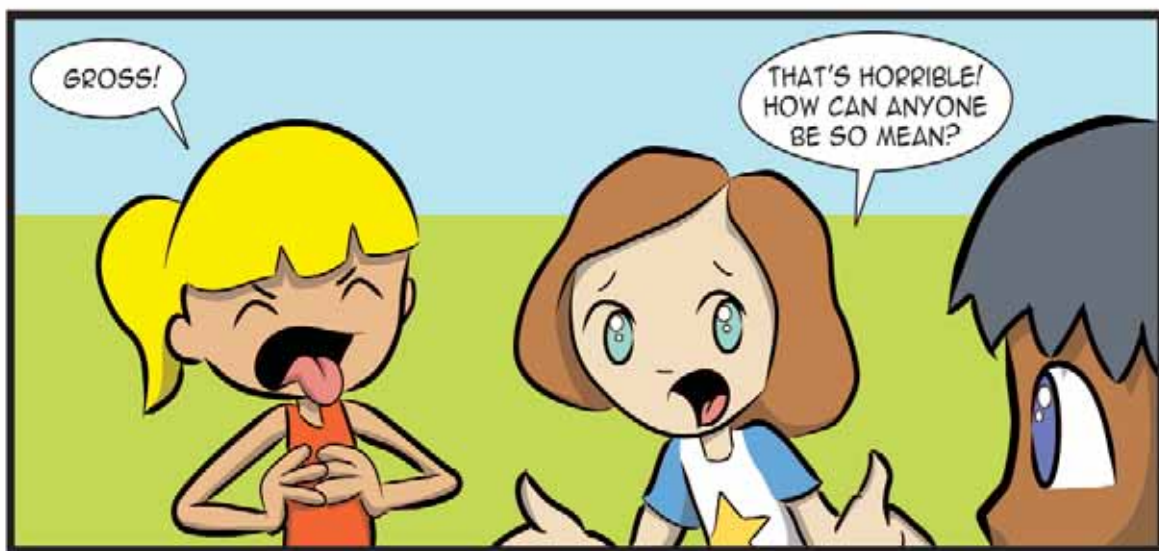
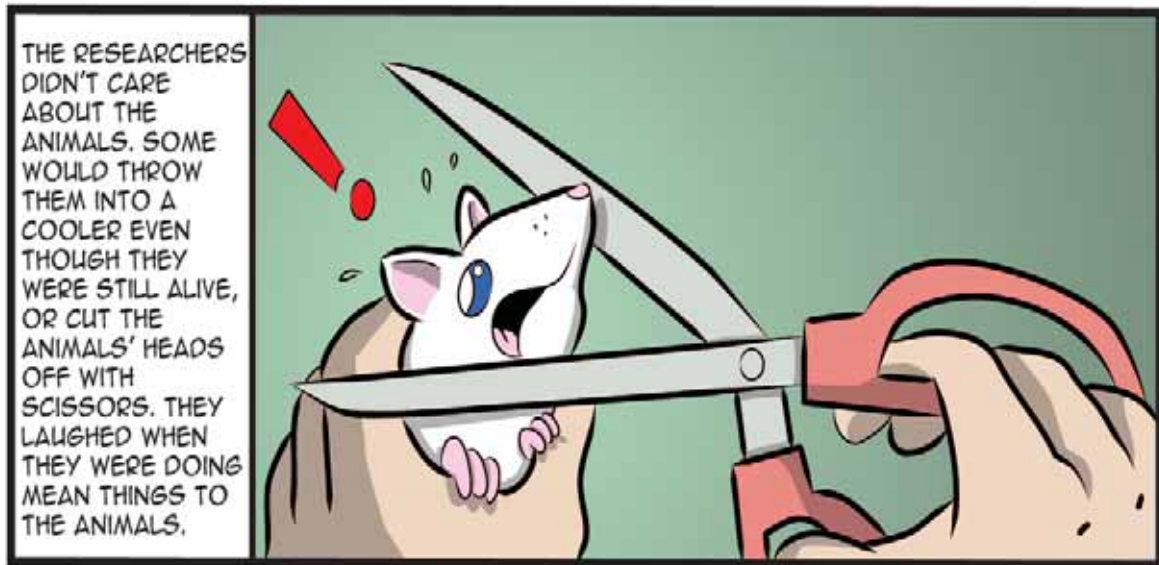
DID YOU GET HER FROM A PET STORE?

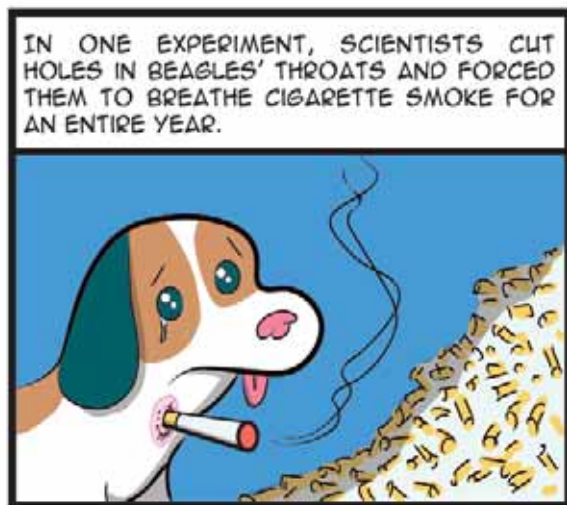
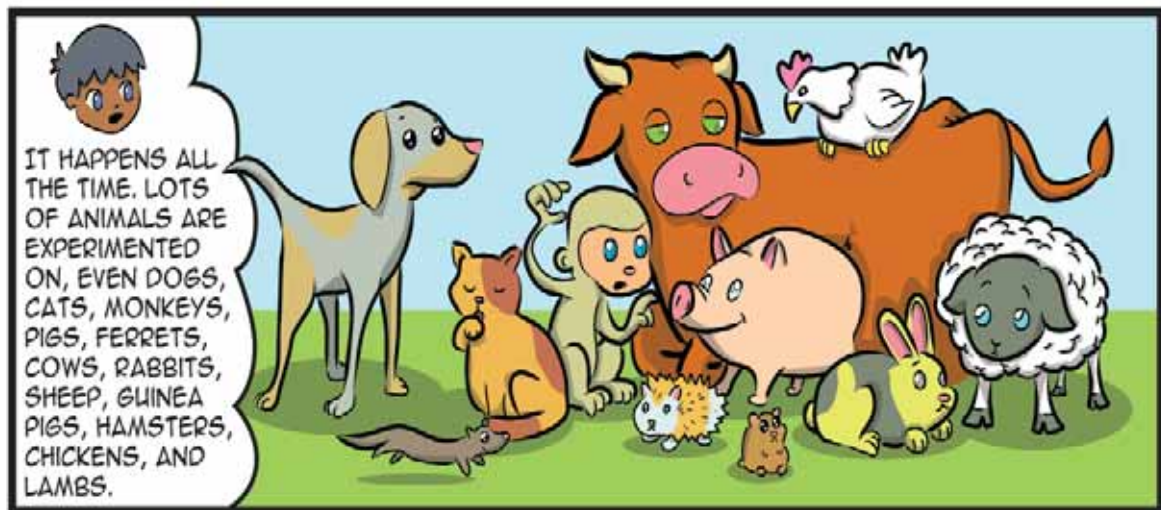
NO! I DON'T THINK PET STORES ARE GOOD PLACES. THE RATS ARE USUALLY KEPT IN SMALL, DIRTY CAGES AND GET VERY BORED BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO EXPLORE OR DO OTHER THINGS THAT RATS NATURALLY LIKE TO DO. MY FATHER RESCUED HER.



SUNSHINE AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER RATS AND MICE WERE USED IN A CRUEL TEST AT A COLLEGE IN NORTH CAROLINA. SHE DIDN'T HAVE A NAME THERE, JUST A NUMBER.



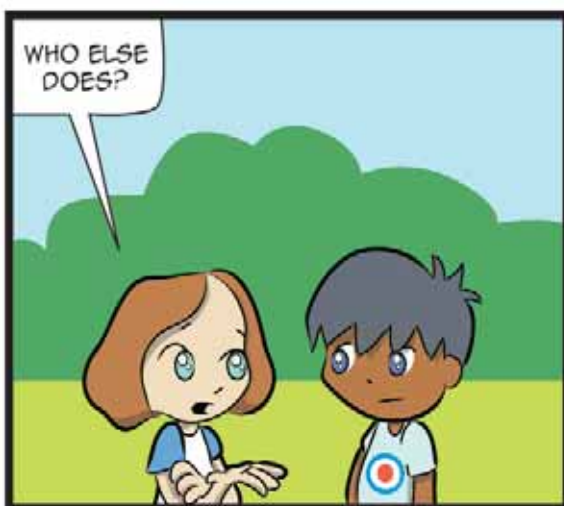
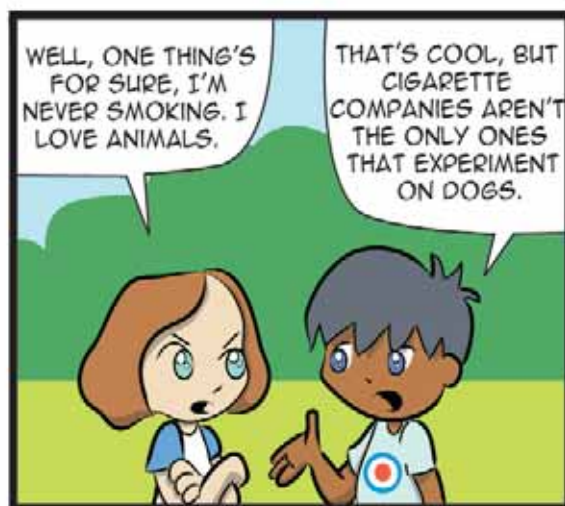
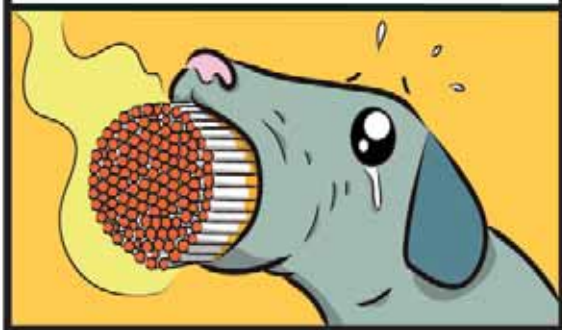




BESIDES, THE TESTS ARE NEVER THE SAME AS WHEN PEOPLE SMOKE, PEOPLE INHALE CIGARETTE SMOKE, BUT THE RESEARCHERS GIVE ANIMALS NICOTINE THROUGH A NEEDLE.



AND ANIMALS ARE USUALLY GIVEN LARGE AMOUNTS OF NICOTINE OR OTHER DRUGS FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, BUT PEOPLE ARE EXPOSED TO SMALL AMOUNTS OVER A LONG TIME.





LOTS OF PLACES. THE MILITARY GASSES AND SHOOTS ANIMALS. SOME DOCTORS ADDICT ANIMALS TO DRUGS AND ALCOHOL. OTHERS DEPRIVE THEM OF SLEEP AND DO LOTS OF OTHER NASTY THINGS, LIKE TAKING BABY ANIMALS AWAY FROM THEIR MOTHERS.

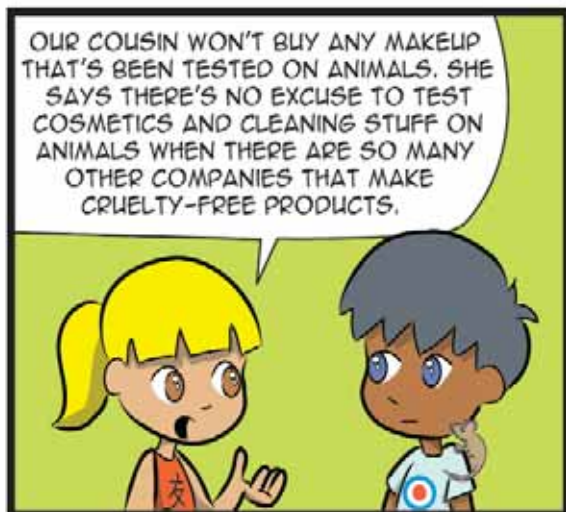


EVEN DOG- AND CAT-FOOD COMPANIES DO CRUEL TESTS TO MEASURE HOW EFFECTIVE THEIR FOOD IS. DURING THE LONG TESTS, DOGS AND CATS ARE OFTEN FORCED TO LIVE IN COLD, EMPTY CAGES WITH NO TOYS FOR YEARS.



THAT'S CRAZY. THOSE COMPANIES ARE SUPPOSED TO CARE ABOUT ANIMALS.

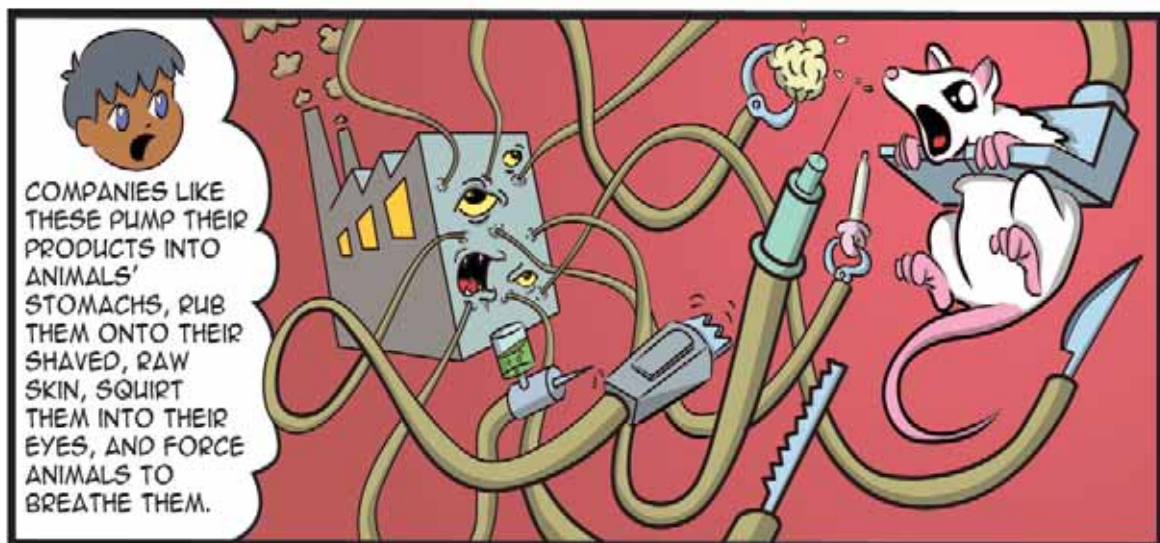
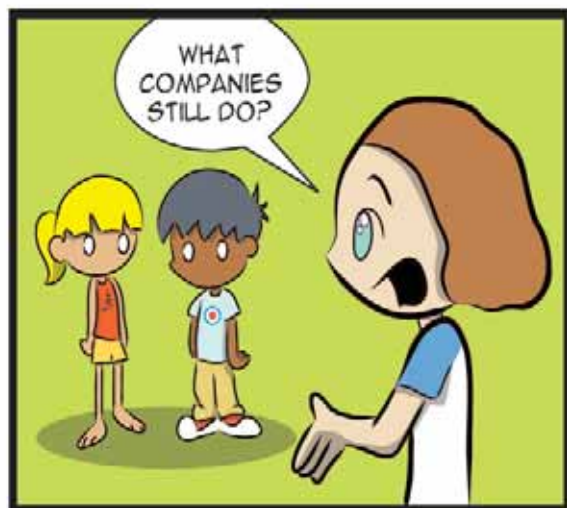
YOU'D THINK SO, BUT MANY EXPERIMENTERS BECOME PRETTY COLD AFTER YEARS OF TESTING AND DON'T EVEN SEE THE ANIMALS' SUFFERING. THEY USUALLY CLAIM THAT THEY CAN'T TREAT THE ANIMALS ANY BETTER BECAUSE IT WOULD COST TOO MUCH MONEY TO MAKE CHANGES.



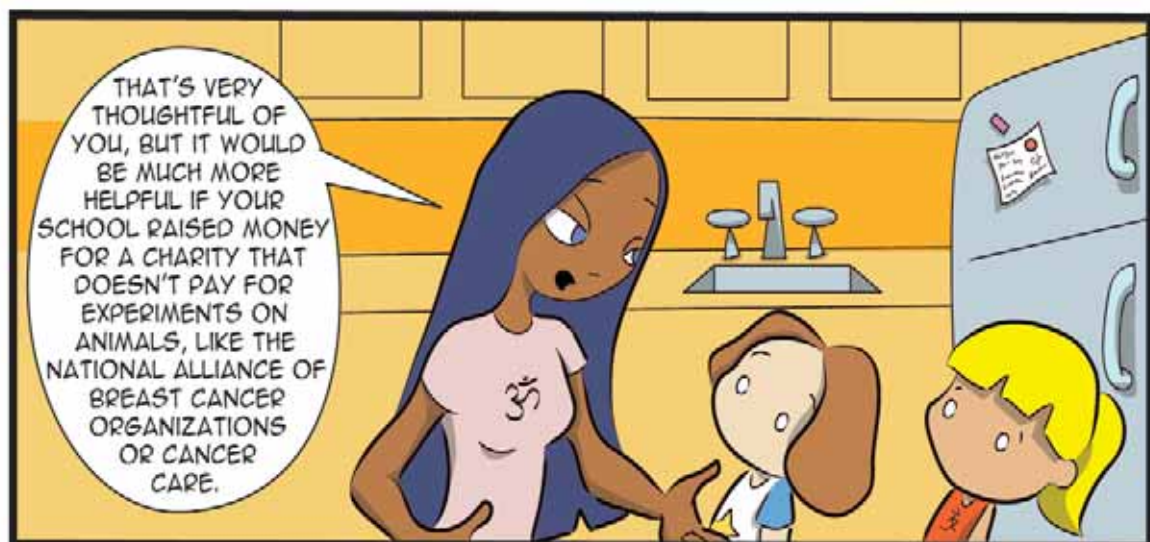
OUR COUSIN WON'T BUY ANY MAKEUP THAT'S BEEN TESTED ON ANIMALS. SHE SAYS THERE'S NO EXCUSE TO TEST COSMETICS AND CLEANING STUFF ON ANIMALS WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER COMPANIES THAT MAKE CRUELTY-FREE PRODUCTS.



RIGHT. HUNDREDS OF BIG COMPANIES LIKE AVON, GILLETTE, REVLON, TOM'S OF MAINE, THE BODY SHOP, AND BATH & BODY WORKS DON'T TEST ON ANIMALS.







ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS REALLY WON'T HELP SAVE ANYONE'S LIFE. IN FACT, A LOT OF ANIMALS WILL SUFFER AND DIE FOR NOTHING. ANIMAL TESTING JUST USES MONEY THAT COULD BE SPENT HELPING PEOPLE, NOT HURTING ANIMALS.



SMART CHARITIES FOCUS ON PREVENTION AND DIRECT CARE. AND THEY USE MODERN RESEARCH METHODS LIKE OBSERVING PEOPLE, USING COMPUTER MODELS, DOING AUTOPSY REPORTS, AND STUDYING HUMAN CELL AND TISSUE SAMPLES.



DO THEY REALLY WORK?

YES, THEY ARE FASTER, MORE RELIABLE, AND LESS EXPENSIVE THAN ANIMAL TESTS. NOWADAYS THERE ARE A NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH COMPUTER VIRTUAL ORGANS THAT ARE JUST LIKE HUMAN BODY PARTS. IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THERE'S JUST NO REASON TO EXPERIMENT ON ANIMALS.

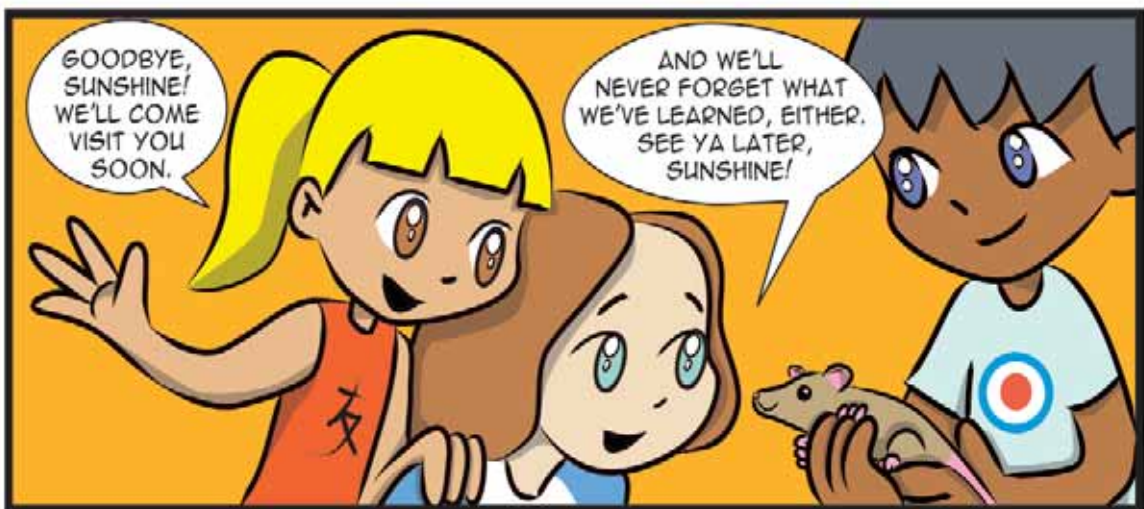


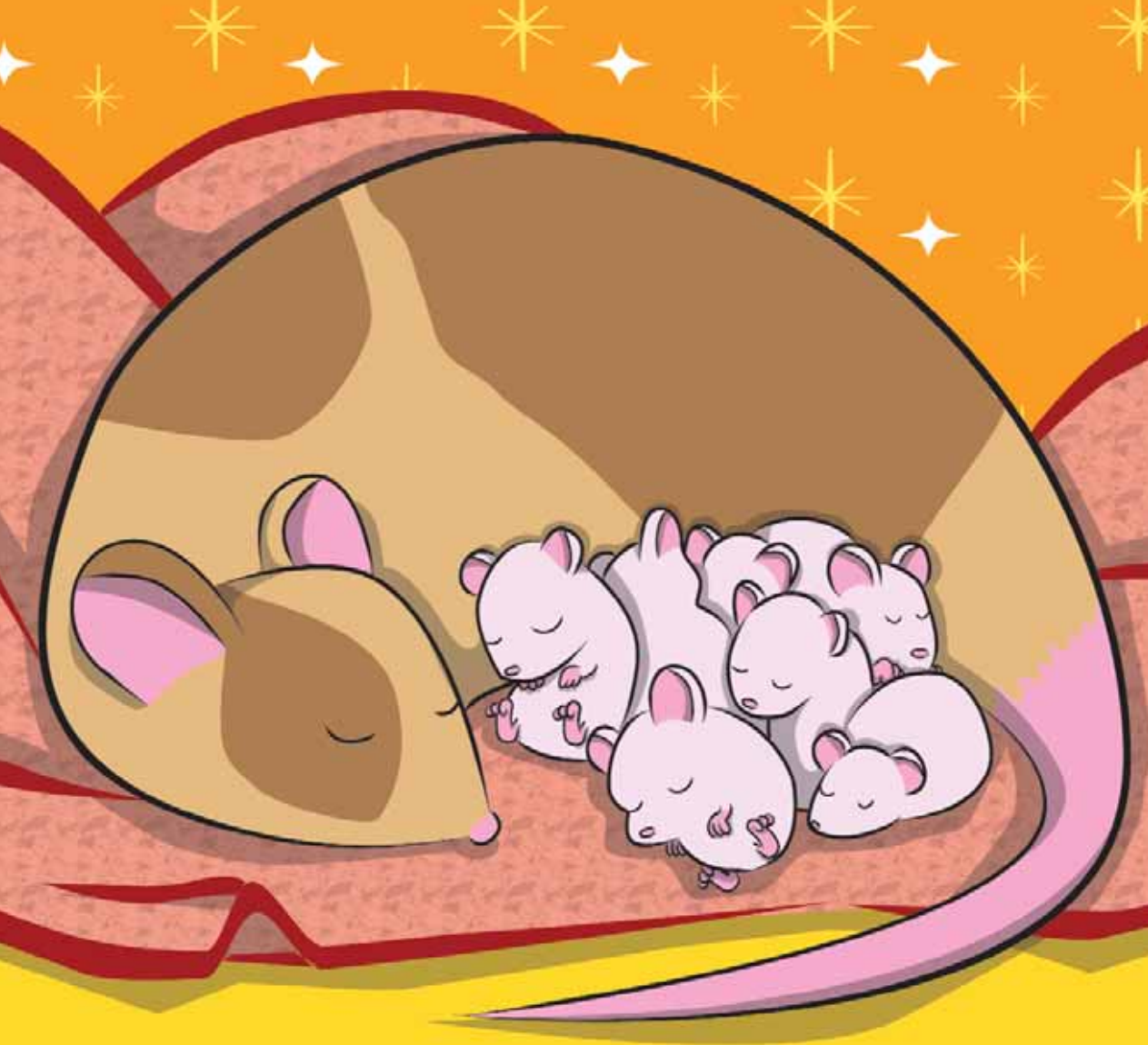
MY MOM'S RIGHT. BESIDES, IT'S WRONG TO INFECT ANIMALS WITH DISEASES THAT THEY WOULDN'T NORMALLY GET. HOW COULD WE LOOK AT SUNSHINE IF WE HELPED CAUSE ANIMALS LIKE HER TO SUFFER?



YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M GOING TO TALK TO MY TEACHER AND MY CLASSMATES AND TELL THEM THAT WE SHOULD DO A FUNDRAISER FOR A CRUELTY-FREE CHARITY INSTEAD.







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