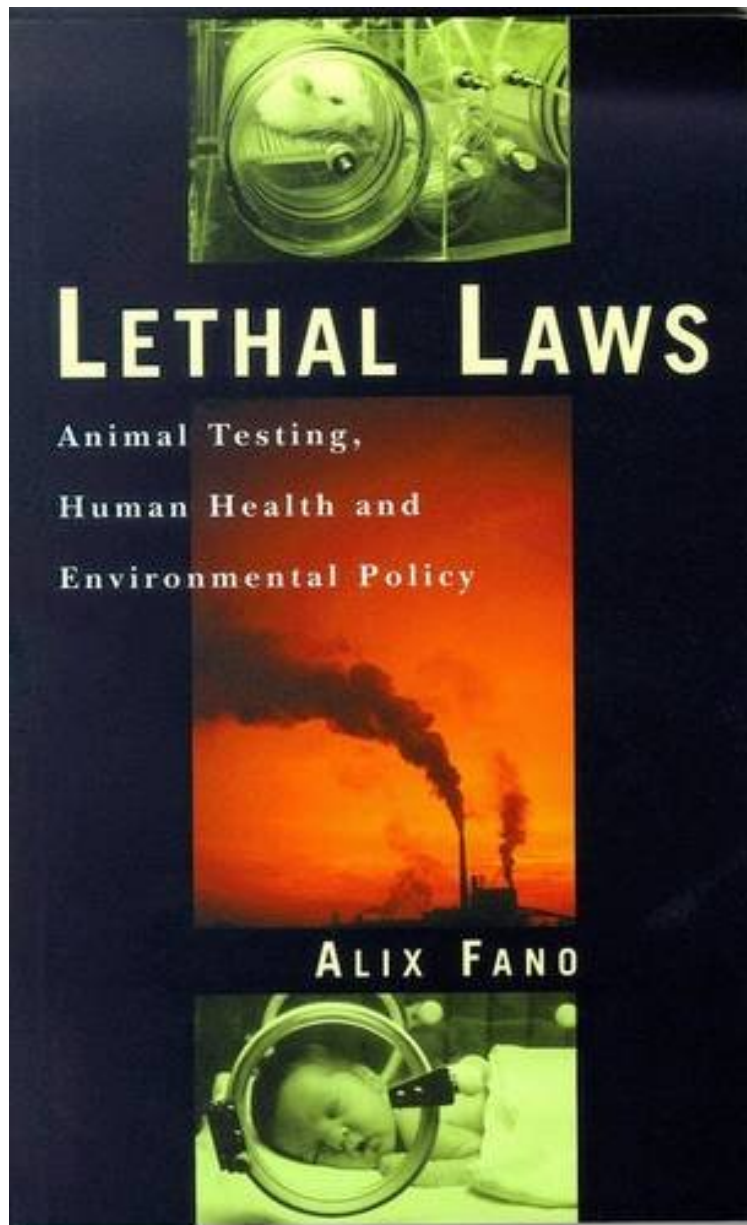


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Lethal Laws

Alix Fano

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Alix Fano : Lethal Laws before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lethal Laws:

For the last 150 years, chemicals have been tested on animals for the alleged purpose of protecting the public from their dangerous effects. *Lethal Laws* reveals that using animals as human surrogates is not only unethical, it is bad science. Alix Fano provides a meticulous analysis of the technical and scientific problems that have plagued animal tests for decades, but which have not been forcefully challenged until now. She shows how animal testing has been used as an alibi to allow the continued use of thousands of toxic chemicals. In a field dominated by male voices, this is a pioneering work by a woman that effectively demonstrates the causal link between animal testing and environmental degradation, and the subsequent deterioration of human health.

From Publishers Weekly Activist Fano has strong opinions on both animal testing and environmental damage, describing herself as "outraged" that such "heinous" activities can take place in a supposedly modern society. *Lethal Laws*, however, concentrates on science, not emotion. By taking a rational approach, Fano hopes to "convince skeptics to think critically," while helping activists become "informed and empowered." Emphasizing the often neglected connection between animal advocacy and environmental protection, Fano rightly points out that anyone who considers themselves a lover of the environment must respect the animal life that is part of it. She gives detailed accounts of the various toxicity tests laboratory animals undergo, then sets out to show that such tests could be performed more quickly, cheaply and effectively by using newly developed in vitro methods. As the abbreviations and footnotes pile up, the book takes on the tone of a research journal written for and read by specialists. Fano does provide helpful guidelines on specific new technologies and includes a how-to guide for activists wanting to take on companies that rely on animal testing. But as for her goal of eradicating the "professional disagreement, bureaucratic inertia, and political maneuvering within the scientific and regulatory communities," this book won't attract the number of readers necessary to spark public outrage about current testing methods. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Fano, currently coordinator for the Medical Research Modernization Committee in New York, holds a master's degree in urban and environmental policy. Her book addresses a major ethical concern for medical researchers worldwide, and her tone throughout is urgent without being strident, an especially difficult feat considering her passion for this topic. The main thrust of her argument is that animal testing is seriously flawed for use as a way to determine whether a compound or procedure is safe or effective for humans. She presents a very balanced view of the issues until her concluding chapters, which provide two scenarios to resolve the situation. (She prefers that animal testing be eliminated entirely.) This is an excellent resource for background material that avoids the mistake previous works have made by steering clear of graphic depictions of animal testing. Recommended for all animal welfare/animal rights collections. - Alicia C. Graybill, Lincoln City Libs., Neb. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. 'Ms Fano has broken new ground, specifically on the question of the use of animals in toxicological testing of chemicals. Her book may prove to be the best intellectual treatise for the critical position she puts forward.' - Sheldon Krinsky, Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy, Tufts University 'Lethal Laws is cogently argued and well researched. Ms Fano's analysis is a must read for anyone involved in environmental policy or public health.' - Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director, International Center for Technology Assessment 'It is the accumulation of millions of 'safe doses' of the chemicals we are exposed to that is one of the main causes of many diseases, including cancer. But is it possible to establish really safe doses for the 75,000 chemicals in commercial use, let alone the 1,500 new ones introduced every year on the basis of animal tests? The answer is 'no'. What we must do is use far less chemicals. This is the thesis of Alix Fano's highly documented new book *Lethal Laws* - and it is very convincingly argued.' - Edward Goldsmith