
BREAKING NEWS

STAND UP TO ANIMAL LAB EXPERIMENTATION!

By Simone Bilich, December 17th, 2025



Many scientists using animals for their research argue that the Animal Welfare Act regulations are enough for the animals well being. The main procedure is the “4 R Principal” Reduction (reducing the number of animals necessary for an experiment to as low as possible), Refinement (Refining the experiment to inflict as little pain as possible) and Replacement (replacing animals with non animal alternatives when possible).

For centuries, animal use in lab experimentation has been seen as a necessary evil for the betterment of human life. However, with growing technological development, there may no longer be a good justification for this “necessary” evil. With developing technologies, we will soon be able to analyze a drugs’ effect down to the individuals genetics, without testing on animals and failed clinical trials.

Stop Animal use in biomedical lab testing. It’s no longer necessary, just evil.



However this doesn't stop the damage being done to both animals, as well as their handlers. 'Most animal lab reviews are done in stroke studies. In this field almost no new human drug has emerged despite decades of research. Out of 29 studies, none of them met all ten criteria for caring for and housing research animals (Braken, 2009).' Many handlers go into animal research to help animals, but begin to suffer mentally (i.e. Compassion fatigue) from exposure to constantly causing suffering and pain to the animals each day. It's estimated around 192 million lab mice are killed each year (Pomeroy, 2024). Some of the procedures practiced include immobility restraint which includes strapping animals down onto a table to induce chronic stress for anxiety medication development, snipping tails, putting holes in ears and severing toes for genome collecting and data analysis. Then once the researchers are ready to get rid of the lab mice, they practice "humane euthanization." This could include overdosing on anesthesia, death by concussion from blunt force to the head, cervical dislocation (often fails to kill the mice fully), decapitation, exposure to carbon dioxide (originally thought to be the most human, but causes the mice to experience "air drowning"), and microwave irradiation (a laser heats up their brain until they die) (Pomeroy, 2024).

University of California lab manager Lindsay Gray recalled how disheartening and depressing it was to walk past rows of empty cages where mice they worked with for months used to live.

The other big argument to continue this "necessary" evil, is the benefit we get from it as humans. However, it has been found that testing on animals is often unreliable for understanding the human reaction to the same medicine. "Roughly 90% of animal tested drugs don't work on humans (Staddon, 2017)." Some drugs that work on animals fail on humans, and alternatively, drugs that work on animals, can be lethal to humans. 'Some drugs that fail on animals are put on hold for years only to be found beneficial for humans later on, even though they did not work on animals. (Jane Goodall, reason for hope 1999)'. Recent experimentation in a phase one study of a monoclonal antibody of TNG 1412 resulted in life threatening morbidity in 6 healthy human volunteer subjects, even after being tested on non-human primates. This reflects the inaccurate predictions of animal testing on the human response (Braken, 2009). Part of the reason for incongruency between animal and human responses is the circumstances and lack of ability to communicate in laboratory settings. Lab researchers banned the use of non-human

primates and other warm blooded animals with the exception of rats, mice, birds and farm animals. They were exempt from the welfare act due to their genetic similarity to humans and, specifically in domesticated rabbits, their adaptability to being handled by predatory animals such as humans (EBSCO). However, rabbits despise being handled by humans, but because they don't make vocal sounds unless they are in extreme pain, their distress goes unnoticed. Therefore, their emotional effects on the experiment will also go unrecorded. In addition, rats prefer to live in groups. So when they are placed in isolation for certain experiments, they become stressed and their immune systems react differently to the stimulus. This causes the results of the experiment to be less reliable and harder to predict within the human condition (Gray, 2020).



Historically, animals were used in biomedical research because they were seen as having no feelings and being incapable of experiencing pain. However, after Darwin released his theory of evolution, people began to realize that animals do have emotions. Thus, official psychological experimentation began in the 1900s (EBSCO,2025). Now people and politicians are pushing for all animal experimentation to be ended.

Actions have been taken to help these animals in captivity, and the issue is continuing to be addressed. Legislations that have been passed so far include:

- The Animal Welfare Act of 1966: requiring researchers to be granted approval before any experimentation is done, to ensure there are no safer alternatives to get the same results.
- The development of the Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PsyETA) later renamed the Society and Animal Forum founded in 1981: Aimed at improving the well being of animals used in studies and advocating for a field of study on animal-human relationships.

- The Animal Welfare Act was amended in 1985 to ensure laboratory animals and pets were included under the act (again excluding rats, mice, birds and other farm animals such as pigs).
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration began to consider computer based strategies such as a vitro model. This model would replicate animal physiology for test tube style experimentation, starting the Comprehensive in Vitro Proarrhythmia Assay Project initiative.
- The Avicenna Alliance in 2013 set standards for computer modeling in medicine, looking to use virtual clinical trials that have the same validity of the rigorous standards of traditional clinical trials. The alliance aims to use individual genetic models of patients rather than larger, genetically variable sample groups. This will allow treatment of the individuals predicted response, rather than a generic group's predicted response (Gray, 2020).
- In 2022, President Joe Biden signed a bill that took away the requirement that drugs had to be tested on animals before being tested on humans.

- In 2024 the National Institute of Health launched a \$300 million dollar fund to help support development and testing of alternatives to animal research.

It is believed that if scientists were to ban animal use in drug testing altogether there would be two outcomes. Either the end to testing drugs entirely, or the start of human test subjects. However, looking forward there are many ways that animals can be weaned out of laboratory research, especially with the development in our technological and artificial intelligence. Some of these developments include the collection of blood cells from alzheimers patients to create stem cells with the disease for scientists to test drug treatments on. Another development is to grow organ tissue in microfluidic chips that each emulate a different organ of the human body. Lastly, computer simulations (Pomeroy, 2024) and as previously mentioned, the vitro model will help remove animals from this process.

In order to keep pushing towards this justice for non-human animals, public efforts are needed to protect these animals from further harm. Some ways you can help in stopping this testing and push for more technological methods of discovery include:

- Voting for legislation that promotes the wellbeing of non-human animals.
- Ask your congressional representative to support organizations aimed at ending or reducing animal testing.
- Support local facilities that put retired research animals up for adoption rather than euthanizing them after the research is complete. Consider adopting from these facilities rather than purchasing a new pet.
- Pay attention to what you buy. Look for cruelty free cosmetics and personal care and cleaning products.
<https://crueltyfree.peta.org/> Can help you search if a company is cruelty free.
- Request alternatives to animal dissection at local schools.
- Share information about animal experimentation with others.

