WHAT YOU CAN DO
Contact your legislators and ask that laws protecting animals be enhanced and followed.

Contact your alma mater, urging it to adopt humane teaching methods.

Distribute ALDF brochures to students on college campuses and through social media.

Educate friends and family on the cruelty of animal-based testing and its dangers to science.

Avoid commercial products from companies that test on animals. Use alternatives.

MODELS FOR IMPROVEMENT
Laboratory testing on chimpanzees (our closest living relatives) is banned in the United Kingdom. The U.S. is one of only two countries in the world whose government openly permits it. As of 2013, no animals may be used in cosmetic testing in the European Union pursuant to E.U. regulations. In the U.S., California passed the first state law in 2000 (Section 1834.9) limiting product-testing where alternative non-animal tests are available. Other states, like New Jersey and New York, followed California’s model. In 2007, the National Research Council issued a report on toxicity testing that recommended a move away from the use of animals in laboratory experiments.

DID YOU KNOW...
Most animals in laboratories are not legally protected.

Most inspectors aren’t empowered to do anything consequential about violations.

Many labs pass inspection even where appalling legal violations occur.

Alternatives to animal testing are more effective, more reliable, and more humane.
WHERE THE LAW FAILS ANIMALS

Every year, millions of animals are exploited in biomedical, aeronautic, automotive, military, agricultural, and cognitive research and in consumer product testing in the U.S. — and an estimated 95% of these animals are not protected by the law. These tests often amount to legally-sanctioned animal abuse.

Animal Welfare Act (AWA) — A federal law that addresses the standard of care animals receive at research facilities. Yet it excludes roughly 95% of the animals tested upon (such as rats, mice, birds, fish, and reptiles) and provides only minimal protection for the rest. Labs are not required to report non-AWA protected animals.

Public Health Service (PHS) – The PHS oversees the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC conducts infectious disease research on nonhuman primates, rabbits, mice, and other animals, while FDA requirements mean the exploitation of animals in pharmaceutical research.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – With only 120 inspectors, the USDA is the agency charged with enforcing the AWA and oversees more than 12,000 facilities involved in research, exhibition, breeding, or dealing of animals. Penalties for non-compliance are often virtually inconsequential in comparison to massive research revenues.

LEGAL TORTURE

Animals in labs are routinely mutilated and subjected to physical and psychological torment – often, they are restrained and cut open without painkillers. Much of this torture is legal. Legal tests include burning, poisoning, starving, forced smoking, mutilating, blinding, electrocuting, drowning, and dissecting without painkillers. For decades, cats, dogs, primates, birds, rodents, horses, goats, pigs, and other animals have been experimented on with these measures.

Given the climate of poor regulatory oversight, many animals are also abused, neglected, and harmed in ways that violate the law.

In 2012, monkeys were boiled alive when sent through scalding-hot mechanical cage washers, while others overheated to death in poor laboratory conditions. Other examples include open-heart surgeries without painkillers and unauthorized amputations.

REDUCTION, REFINEMENT, REPLACEMENT

Animals in laboratories are failed by the regulatory bodies set in place to protect them. Legal requirements (like providing painkillers) are regularly overridden by claiming “scientific necessity.” Indisputable evidence acknowledged by the FDA and the pharmaceutical industry prove that animal testing in drugs used by humans is unreliable. According to the FDA, 92% of drugs tested fail to meet the standards for human use, and this rate is growing, not improving. Despite legal requirements to do so, many facilities don’t adequately look for alternatives to animal-based tests.

Many scientists believe that in vitro testing is scientifically superior to the savage testing on animals. The same is true for radiation exposure tests and cosmetic testing. Technology such as MRI, EEG, PET, and CT scans provide alternatives to cutting into the brains of cats and monkeys. Cancer antibody testing is better conducted with human cells than by injecting mice with cancer. Many medical schools are eliminating animal testing because of its unreliability.