

## Problem

Laws and regulations governing the use of animals in research are inadequate, seldom enforced, and completely exclude the animals most often used in laboratories: rats, mice and birds. As a result, animals used in laboratory research are often repeatedly subjected to horrifically painful experiments without pain relief.

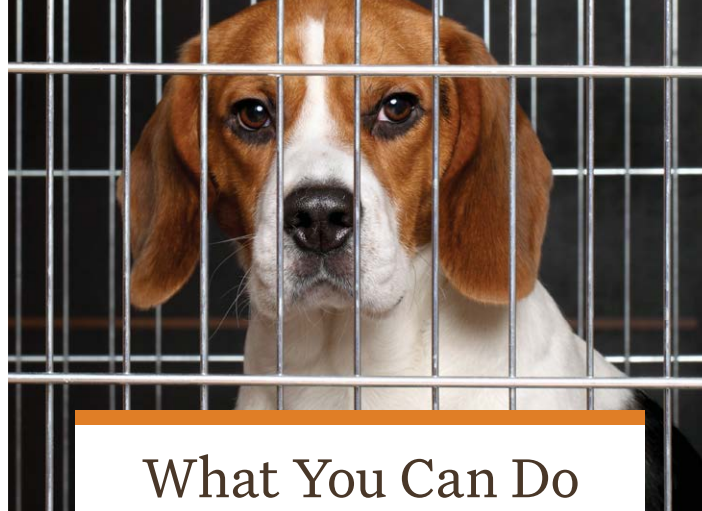
The primary federal law that protects animals used in research provides only basic requirements such as housing and feeding that the laboratories can waive, if an explanation for the departure from law is provided. Additionally, most oversight is conducted internally by the laboratory itself. As a result, egregious suffering and death caused by experiments performed on animals are practically always tolerated by the law.

## Solution

**Stronger legal protections for animals used in research and humane alternatives to animal testing.**

Alternatives to animal testing are often more effective, more reliable, and more humane. Thanks to better technology and increasing public demand, we have seen some progress. But our work here is far from done.

**Tens of millions of animals are used in laboratory experiments every year in the United States — and by most estimates, around 95% of these animals are not protected by the law.**



## What You Can Do

Go to [aldf.org/research](https://aldf.org/research) to learn more about animals used in research – and what the Animal Legal Defense Fund is doing to protect them.

Avoid commercial products from companies that test on animals.

Sign up for the Animal Legal Defense Fund eNewsletter to receive alerts about legislation and litigation taking place in your state on behalf of animals used in research. Sign up at [aldf.org/signup](https://aldf.org/signup).

Let your state and local lawmakers know you care about animals used in research and want to see stronger laws to protect them and better enforcement of those laws.

Become a member of the Animal Legal Defense Fund and help us continue to be the legal voice for animals used in research by going to [aldf.org/partner](https://aldf.org/partner).



**ANIMAL LEGAL  
DEFENSE FUND** EST. 1979

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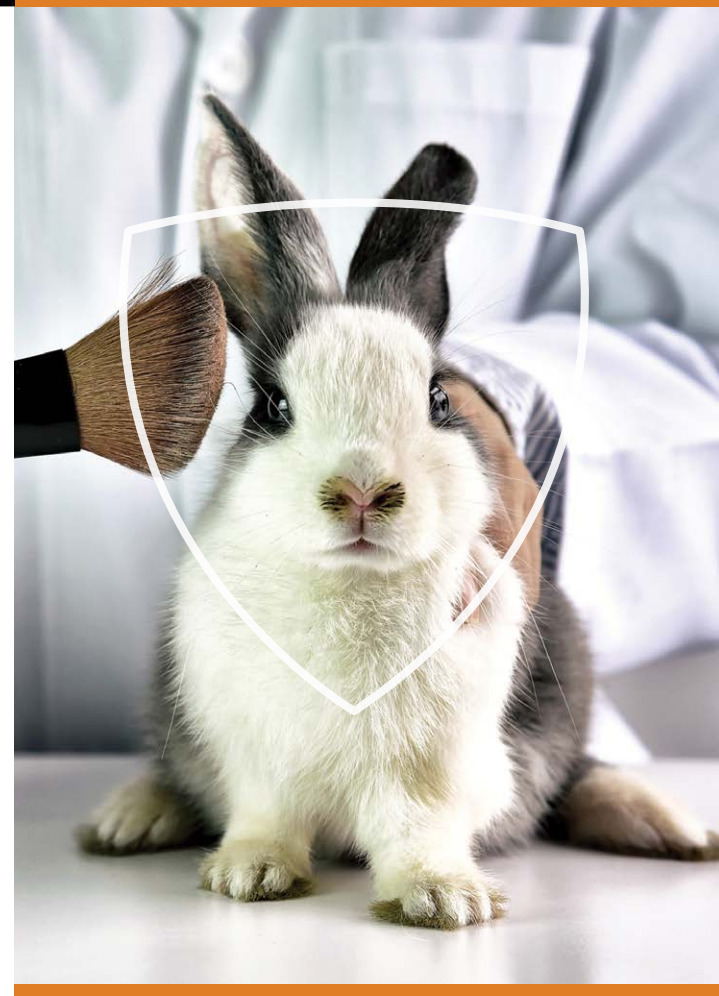
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**ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND**

# Animals Used in Research

ANIMALS SHOULD NOT BE USED IN  
CRUEL AND UNNECESSARY EXPERIMENTS



**ALL OUR CLIENTS ARE INNOCENT**

# LAWS AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES ARE FAILING ANIMALS USED IN RESEARCH

Every year, millions of animals are exploited in biomedical research and consumer product testing in the U.S. These tests often amount to legally-sanctioned animal cruelty.

## FEDERAL

### Animal Welfare Act (AWA)

The AWA is the primary federal law that addresses the standard of care that animals receive in laboratories. The AWA does not cover roughly 95% of the animals tested upon because it exempts rats, mice, birds, fish, and reptiles. The AWA provides only minimal protections to the animals it does cover. The AWA requires compliance with basic animal husbandry standards that can be waived by the laboratory itself. The AWA also requires oversight from an internal animal care and use committee whose interests are practically always aligned with the laboratory.

### Public Health Service Policy (PHS Policy)

The PHS Policy must be followed for all research funded by the Public Health Service, which includes the National Institutes of Health (NIH),

Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The PHS Policy requires compliance with the AWA and the National Research Council's Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals — which has stronger, but still limited, protections for animals than the AWA and includes all vertebrate animals. The NIH grants billions of dollars annually in research grants to institutions across the country.

## STATE

### State Animal Cruelty Laws

State law generally protects animals from unnecessary suffering. However, most states exempt accepted research practices from their animal cruelty statutes. As a result, animal cruelty laws are almost never enforced even in cases of egregious animal abuse or neglect at laboratories.

### Models for Improvement

While animal testing is still far too prevalent, some countries and states have implemented laws that reduce the number of animals used in laboratory experiments.

These laws are good both because they reduce the suffering inflicted upon animals in labs and because they can be used as models elsewhere.



### Bans on Chimpanzee Experimentation

Lab testing on chimpanzees has been banned in countries including the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Japan, and Germany.

In the United States, there is no such ban. However, the federal government vowed to voluntarily phase out its use of chimpanzees in experiments in 2013, and in 2015 promised to send the last of the research chimpanzees to sanctuaries. Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enacted a new rule in 2015 to make it more difficult for non-government labs to use chimpanzees by expanding Endangered Species Act protections to chimpanzees in captivity.

### Bans on Animal Testing of Cosmetics

Multiple countries have banned cosmetics testing on animals. In 2018, California became the first U.S. state to ban the sale of cosmetics developed using unnecessary animal testing, followed by Nevada and Illinois. In 2021, Virginia enacted a law prohibiting both cosmetics testing on animals and the sales of animal-tested cosmetics. New Jersey and New York have laws limiting product testing on animals.

**DID YOU KNOW?**



The laws that do protect animals used in research apply only to living conditions such as housing and feeding; even these minimal protections can be waived by the laboratories themselves in their animal research protocols.