



# Progress Report

April - December 2025

## Environmental Protection Agency



### Agency Pledge

After backtracking on a past pledge, the EPA has not made any official pledges to move away from the use of animals in research and testing. NAVS will push for a renewed pledge.

#### July 2025

##### Rats and zebrafish up for adoption

Funding cuts led to the closure of an EPA lab in North Carolina. The lab launched an adoption program to find homes for roughly 20,000 lab animals, mostly rats and zebrafish.

### Where EPA Progress Falls Short

- In 2019, the EPA pledged to end all mammal testing by 2035, but quietly backstepped on the pledge in subsequent years.
- The rat and zebrafish adoption program was restricted to staff of the laboratory and was not open to the public or nonprofit rescues and sanctuaries.

### How NAVS is Helping the EPA Move Away from Animal Use

- Cross-agency momentum building: Through broader federal advocacy (including engagement with FDA, NIH, and OSTP processes), NAVS helps create interagency pressure and consistency, making it easier for the EPA to justify moving away from animal testing as part of a government-wide shift.
- Public comments and formal input: NAVS has submitted comments and advocacy materials urging the EPA to prioritize human-relevant, non-animal methods, establish clear timelines, and avoid default reliance on animal tests when non-animal options are available.
- Promotion of human-based science: NAVS elevates and promotes New Approach Methodologies (NAMs)—including in vitro, in silico, and computational tools—as not only more ethical but more predictive for human health than animal models, reinforcing EPA's scientific justification for transition.



→ <https://navs.org/crossroads-2029>