



Progress Report

April 2025 - March 2026

Department of Defense



Agency Pledge

There has been no official pledge to end animal research and testing by the DoD. NAVS will push for such a pledge.

May 2025

Navy to end dog and cat testing

The U.S. Navy announced the termination of all research and testing on cats and dogs.

May 2025

Defunding cruel cat experiments

The Trump administration pulled the plug on a \$10 million study funded by the DoD that involved giving electroshocks to cats in experiments on constipation and incontinence.

Mid-2025

ACURO Changes

The DoD's Animal Care and Use Review Office (ACURO) implemented an administrative change requiring DoD-funded animal research to be conducted under standalone protocols, enhancing transparency and traceability of animal use tied to DoD funding.

12/19/25

NDAA includes critical animal welfare provisions

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026 bars the DoD from supporting most painful research on dogs and cats, and ends the use of animals in live-fire trauma training.



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Where DoD Progress Falls Short

- In the first quarter of 2026, the Department of Defense did not take any new, substantive steps to reduce animal use in research and testing, maintaining existing policies and oversight frameworks.
- There is no agency-wide pledge to reduce the use of animals in DoD funded initiatives.
- Reports throughout 2025 indicate that significant money is still being spent by the agency to conduct dog and cat tests, specifically through the Army.

How NAVS is Helping the DoD Move Away from Animal Use

- We submitted a formal comment to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) urging the federal government, including the Department of Defense, to modernize science by aligning funding, peer review, regulation, and public-private partnerships with metascience evidence showing that animal models deliver low reproducibility and poor return on investment.
- We support reform through education, coalition-building, and strategic communications that elevate the case for ending harmful and outdated DoD-funded animal experiments.
- NAVS advocates for replacement—not refinement—of animal use by pushing the DoD to prioritize human-relevant, non-animal research methods over incremental welfare-based reforms.

→ <https://navs.org/crossroads-2029>