



Progress Report

April 2025 - June 2026

Centers for Disease Control



Agency Pledge

The CDC has made no official pledge to replace animal testing and research with human-relevant methods and models. NAVS will push for such a pledge.

November 2025

CDC ends monkey testing

The agency directed its researchers to end all research involving monkeys by the end of 2025.

6/20/26

CDC advances plan to retire research monkeys

The CDC initiated a competitive solicitation limited to Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS)-accredited sanctuaries to identify a long-term home for approximately 160 retired research macaques. Through the solicitation, the agency reaffirmed its commitment to retiring the monkeys to sanctuary rather than returning them to research.

Where CDC Progress Falls Short

- In the first quarter of 2026 the Centers for Disease Control took no new consequential actions to reduce the number of animals they use in research and testing.
- Progress to date applies only to nonhuman primates, leaving most animals used by CDC researchers (including mice, rats, and other species) entirely unaddressed.

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How NAVS is Helping the CDC Move Away from Animal Use

- Promoting transparency and accountability: NAVS has submitted a FOIA request to obtain information on the CDC's implementation of its primate phase-out, including the disposition of animals, helping ensure the agency follows through on its commitment. The FOIA request is pending.
- Sanctuary grants: Through our Animal Sanctuary Assistance Program (ASAP), NAVS helps build capacity at accredited sanctuaries to receive and care for monkeys that are no longer being used in research and testing.
- Support through policy change: NAVS' support for the Captive Primate Safety Act would reduce pet primate surrenders, freeing up sanctuary space to receive nonhuman primates retired from the CDC and other government funded research.
- Shifting federal investment: NAVS advocates for funding decisions that prioritize NAMs development, training, and regulatory science over maintaining animal-based systems.

→ <https://navs.org/crossroads-2029>