



Progress Report

April 2025 - June 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

- There is no agency-wide pledge to reduce the use of animals in DoD funded experiments.
- In the first quarter of 2026, the DoD did not take any new, substantive steps to reduce animal use in research and testing, maintaining existing policies and oversight frameworks.
- In the second quarter of 2026, the DoD did not take any new, substantive steps to reduce animal use in research and testing.
- Reports throughout 2025 indicate that significant money was 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

- To date, NAVS has collected 2,600 signatures for our petition urging the DoD to end all remaining invasive live animal trauma training. The petition calls on the department to replace these outdated practices with validated human-relevant training methods, redirect funding toward modern alternatives, and establish a transparent timeline for fully phasing out 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>