



Progress Report

April 2025 – June 2026

Environmental Protection Agency



Agency Pledge

January 2026 – EPA recommitted to a plan to reduce mammalian animal testing and work toward eliminating it by 2035 by expanding acceptance and use of validated non-animal methods.

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.

6/2/26

Thirteen new NAMs approved

For the first time in five years, the agency expanded its list of accepted New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for chemical and pesticide safety assessment, adding 13 new NAMs. They also launched a streamlined process for researchers and stakeholders to nominate additional non-animal methods for regulatory use.

1/22/26

Rodent use update

A press release reported that the number of rodents in the Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions' care declined from 466 in April 2025 to just 41 by mid-November 2025.

Where EPA Progress Falls Short

- By limiting its pledge to mammals, EPA leaves vast numbers of other animals—especially fish—unprotected, despite routinely using dozens to hundreds of fish per test and thousands each year, underscoring a major gap in the agency's commitment to truly end animal testing.
- 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.



Progress Report

April 2025 – June 2026

Environmental Protection Agency



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>