



Progress Report

April 2025 – September 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.

6/2/2026

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.

8/27/2026

Replacing animal tests for certain pesticide mixtures

EPA announced that manufacturers can use an internationally recognized calculation method to request replacement of animal tests for pesticide mixtures expected to have low toxicity when swallowed. The method uses information about a product's ingredients to predict its toxicity, avoiding new animal testing of the finished mixture.

1/22/2026

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.

8/27/2026

Human-based testing for lung irritation

The agency adopted an approach using lab-grown human airway tissue and computer modeling to assess lung irritation from chemicals used in soaps, detergents, and cleaning products. The approach replaces reliance on a rodent study for these assessments.

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Where EPA Progress Falls Short

- The 2035 goal does not cover fish, birds, or other animals used in testing, leaving a substantial gap in EPA's commitment to ending animal use.
- The August updates address lung irritation from certain surfactants and short-term oral toxicity for qualifying pesticide mixtures. These are meaningful steps, but broader replacement strategies are still needed across other chemicals and health effects.
- EPA encourages manufacturers to use non-animal methods and request testing waivers, but these pathways do not require suitable alternatives to replace animal studies.
- Recent announcements do not provide a comprehensive accounting of animal studies requested, funded, or replaced, or annual targets showing the path to 2035.
- The original rat and zebrafish adoption program was restricted to laboratory staff. Opening placement opportunities to qualified rescues, sanctuaries, and public adopters would expand options for animals leaving research.

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>