APNM

Animal Experimentation

An Overview of the Practice and Its Impact on Animals in New Mexico

Animal Experimentation In the United States

In the United States, animal experiments are conducted for purposes of biomedical, military, agriculture, behavioral and cognitive research, and chemical and product testing. Despite their widespread use, the results from animal experimentation are not predictive of results in humans. In fact, hundreds of millions of animals are used and killed in experiments in federal, state, and privately-owned laboratories throughout the United States each year.

Animal Experimentation In New Mexico

In New Mexico, a large variety of animals, including dogs, are experimented on in laboratories despite the scientific inapplicability of animal experimentation to humans and the wide availability of non-animal, human-relevant alternatives.

In 2021, Lovelace Biomedical Research Institute (LBRI) conducted *painful and often deadly experiments* on nearly 1,300 animals including dogs, ferrets, guinea pigs, hamsters, monkeys, pigs, and rabbits.[1]

LBRI has violated the Animal Welfare Act on countless occasions. These violations include fines for the deaths of two monkeys, citations for exposing beagles to extreme heat for up to six hours at a time, and failure to care for dogs with life-threatening parasites.

In 2021, the University of New Mexico (UNM) conducted *painful and often deadly experiments* on dozens of hamsters, rabbits, and large numbers of mice.[2]

Over the past few years, New Mexico State University (NMSU) conducted *painful experiments* on bats, birds, bulls, elk, fish, heifers, horses, mice, sheep, and squid.[3]

THE PROBLEMS WITH ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

1.

Results Fail To Translate To Humans

Most animal experimentation is done to understand human disease that often feeds into drug development.

And yet, nearly 90% of all new human drugs fail to reach the market and the failure rate is even higher for anti-cancer agents.[5]

The high clinical failure rate in drug development across all human disease categories is based, at least in part, on the inability to adequately model human diseases in animals and the poor predictability of animal models."[6]

2. Wasteful And Unnecessary Government Spending

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) wastes billions of dollars each year funding human disease research based on animal models in federal and state laboratories in the United States and around the world. Most recently, NIH granted NMSU $7M to expand its animal experimentation lab.[7]

3. Lack Of Agency Oversight And Laboratory Accountability

The Animal Welfare Act oversees animal experimentation but does not cover some animals like farmed animals, mice, or rats. For this reason, laboratories are not held accountable for millions of animals they use in experiments each year.

4. Difficulty Obtaining Information

Information about animal experiments is not readily available to the public despite being funded by both state and federal governments.

The United States Department of Agriculture provides lax enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, the law that oversees animal experimentation.[8]

## THE USE OF DOGS IN EXPERIMENTS FOR HUMAN DISEASE
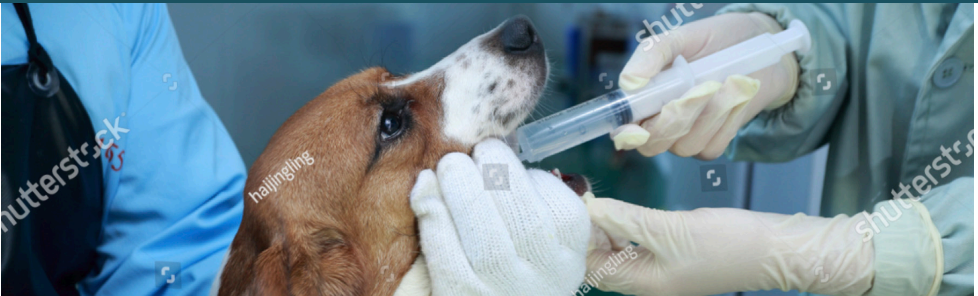
More than 250 institutions in the United States report using dogs in experiments each year, including chemical, pesticide, and drug companies (as well as contract laboratories that carry out dog tests for these companies), public and private universities, community and technical schools, government-owned facilities, and Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities and hospitals.[9]

Dogs in laboratories suffer immensely. In addition to the painful experiments that the vast majority of dogs in laboratories experience over days, months, years or even decades, life in a laboratory is typically a miserable and terrifying experience.

Typically kept alone in barren steel cages with little room to move around and few, if any, comforts, such as toys or soft bedding, dogs often become excruciatingly lonely and anxious.

<table>
<tr><td>

Non-Animal Methods Exist

</td><td>

Fortunately, there are many non-animal research methods available to learn about human disease or predict the safety of new human drugs including stem cells, micro dosing, DNA chips, microfluidics chips, human tissue, new imaging technologies, and post-marketing drug surveillance.[10]

</td></tr>
</table>
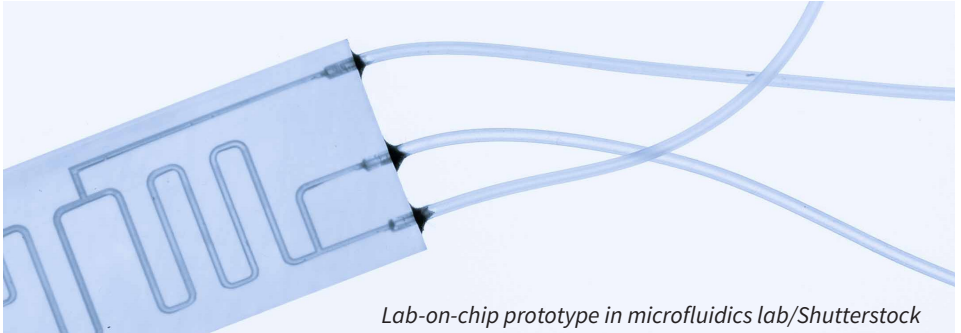
Lab-on-chip prototype in microfluidics lab/Shutterstock

For more information on animal experimentation, visit us online at apnm.org/ais

ANIMAL PROTECTION NEW MEXICO

Animal Protection New Mexico is a statewide nonprofit that protects animals by creating social change resulting in the humane treatment of all animals.

apnm.org

---

[1] US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, (https://aphis-efile.force.com/PublicSearchTool/s/annual-reports)

[2] The Animal Welfare Act specifically excludes any oversight of mice.

[3] Information acquired through public records request.

[4] Nearly 90 percent of drug candidates fail to reach the market. Can organ-chips help? - STAT (statnews.com)

[5] Seyhan AA. Lost in translation: the valley of death across preclinical and clinical divide – identification of problems and overcoming obstacles. Transl Med Commun. 2019;4(1):18.

[6] Akhtar, A. The Flaws and Human Harms of Animal Experimentation, Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics, 2015 Oct; 24(4): 407–419 The Flaws and Human Harms of Animal Experimentation (nih.gov)

[7] https://www.grantcountybeat.com/news/non-local-news-releases/74674-nih-7-million-grant-to-expand-nmsu-biomedical-research-facilities

[8] ABQ research lab fined over monkey deaths - Albuquerque Journal (abqjournal.com)

[9] Dogs Used in Experiments, HSUS, https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/dogs-used-experiments-faq.

[10] T. Arora, A. K. Mehta, V. Joshi, K. D. Mehta, N. Rathor, P. K. Mediratta, and K. K. Sharma, Substitute of Animals in Drug Research: An Approach Towards Fulfillment of 4R's, Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical Science. 2011 Jan-Feb; 73(1): 1–6. Substitute of Animals in Drug Research: An Approach Towards Fulfillment of 4R's (nih.gov)

Cover photo: Shutterstock   11.2022