

Timeline of Legislative Anti-Vivisection Reforms



- 2020 USA** The House Labor-H Appropriations Committee passes language requiring NIH-funded facilities to offer all species of animals post-research adoption consideration.
New Jersey and Oregon: States individually enact laws requiring dogs and cats to be given an adoption opportunity after being used in experiments.
- 2019 USA** Illinois: State bans the sale of animal tested cosmetics.
EPA announces a plan to reduce mammal use by 30% by 2025, eliminate mammal use by 2035, and fund alternatives to animal testing.
Congress passes report language chastising USDA for failing to document Animal Welfare Act violations.
Congress directs USDA to end its “teachable moments” policy, asserting it undermines the Congressional oversight role.
Washington: State enacts law requiring dogs and cats to be given an adoption opportunity after being used in experiments.
- 2018 USA** Congress requires the Pentagon to use medical-simulation technology in trauma-skills training “to the maximum extent” before resorting to using animals.
California: State enacts law to ban sale of cosmetic products and ingredients tested on animals.
California: State enacts law to allow students to opt out of animal dissection exercises.
Delaware, Maryland, and Rhode Island: States individually pass laws mandating dogs and cats be given adoption consideration after being used in experiments.
Virginia: State enacts a law banning state funds from being used for painful experiments on dogs and cats.
- Australia** Australia bans cosmetic animal testing.
- Japan** Japan abolishes its requirement for year-long pesticide testing on dogs.
- Brazil** Brazil bans the use of animals in classroom experiments.
- Netherlands** Dutch Parliament announces a mandatory 40% reduction in the number of primates used in private-sector experiments.
- 2017 USA** In response to Congressional pressure, the U.S. Coast Guard ends the use of animals in trauma training.
Congress passes the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection (CHIMP) Act, which gave NIH grant the NIH budgetary flexibility to retire chimpanzees to sanctuaries and support the chimps already retired.
- Canada** The Senate passes the Cruelty-Free Cosmetics Act which bans cosmetic animal testing and the sale of cosmetic products and ingredients tested on animals.
- Guatemala** Guatemala becomes the first country in the Americas to ban cosmetic animal testing.
- 2016 USA** California, Connecticut, Illinois, and New York: States individually pass laws mandating dogs and cats be given adoption consideration after being used in experiments.
An amendment to the 2016 Fiscal Year House Appropriations Committee’s Agriculture Bill ends funding to class B animal dealers.
- India** India bans duplicative animal testing.
- Switzerland** Switzerland bans the sale of cosmetics tested on animals.
- Turkey** Turkey bans cosmetic animal testing and the sale of cosmetics tested on animals.

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- 2015** USA In response to Congressional pressure, NIH announces an end to captive chimpanzee experiments.
- In response to Congressional pressure, NIH ends controversial set of maternal deprivation experiments using baby monkeys.
- Minnesota and Nevada: States individually pass laws mandating dogs and cats be given adoption consideration after being used in experiments.
- Congress passes the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which requires that the Environmental Protection Agency do more to reduce and replace the use of animals in testing. This led to the EPA in 2019 announcing plans to phase out experiments on mammals.
- 2013** USA In response to Congressional pressure, Harvard closes the New England Primate Research Center.
- Connecticut: State enacts law to allow students to opt out of animal dissection exercises.
- Denmark Denmark passes the Animal Welfare Act of 2013, which requires that all animal experiments be approved by the Animal Experiments Inspectorate if pain or suffering is expected. Animals cannot be used when other suitable research methods are available.
- EU The EU bans the marketing and sale of products tested on animals.
- Germany Germany passes an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act which tightens regulations for experiments on monkeys and bans the use of great apes in research (with few exceptions).
- India India bans cosmetic testing on animals.
- Norway Norway bans cosmetic animal testing and the sale of animal tested cosmetics.
- 2011** USA New York: State enacts law to allow students to opt out of animal dissection exercises.
- 2010** EU European Parliament Directive promotes the goal of “full replacement of procedures on live animals...as soon as possible.”
- The EU bans research on great apes.
- The EU implemented a directive determining that only the offspring of wild-caught NHPs can be used in research experiments.
- 2008** USA Congress passes the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 which increases fines for AWA violations.
- District of Columbia enacts law to enable students to opt out of dissection exercises.
- New York: State legislature passes a law requiring companies to use ICCVAM-validated alternatives instead of animals, where applicable.
- Vermont: State enacts law to enable students to opt out of animal dissection.
- Belgium Belgian’s Federal Parliament bans experiments on great apes.
- EU EU bans cosmetic ingredient animal testing.
- 2007** USA Congress directs NIH to determine humane and scientific issues related to random sourced dogs and cats in research. The NIH initiates internal reform in response.
- Israel Israel bans cosmetic testing on animals.
- 2006** USA New Jersey: State enacts law to allow students to opt out of animal dissection exercises.
- Austria Parliament bans biomedical experiments on great apes unless the experiments are intended to help the ape being studied.
- Japan Japan bans invasive chimpanzee research.
- 2005** USA Oregon: State enacts law to allow students to opt out of animal dissection exercises.
- 2004** USA Virginia: State enacts law to allow students to opt out of animal dissection exercises.
- EU The European Union bans cosmetic testing on animals.
- 2003** Australia Parliament bans experiments on great apes.
- Netherlands Parliament bans cosmetic testing on animals.
- Sweden Sweden bans experiments on great apes as part of a binding regulation passed by the National Board for Laboratory Animals and the Swedish Board of Agriculture.
- 2002** USA Florida: State enacts law to allow students to opt out of animal dissection exercises.
- 2000** USA Illinois: State enacts law to allow students to opt out of animal dissection exercises.
- 1999** New Zealand The Animal Welfare Act passes, establishing conditions on the right to use nonhuman primates in experiments.
- 1998** UK Parliament bans cosmetic testing on animals.

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- 1997** USA Rhode Island: State enacts law to allow students to opt out of animal dissection exercises.
- Netherlands Parliament passes an amendment to the Experiments on Animals Act of 1977 that bans cosmetic animal testing.
- UK Parliament bans experiments on great apes.
- 1996** UK The UK prohibited the wild capture of primates for use in experiments.
- 1993** Australia Tasmania: The Animal Welfare Act passes, which establishes guidelines for animal experiment licensing and animal care.
- 1992** USA Pennsylvania: State enacts law to allow students to opt out of animal dissection exercises.
- Australia The Australian Capital Territory passes an Animal Welfare Act, which establishes guidelines for animal experiment licensing and specific breeding for animal experiments.
- 1990** USA Congress passes an amendment to the Farm Bill, which required dogs and cats to be held at shelters for at least five days before they are allowed to be sold to research facilities.
- Canada Ontario increases protection for animals in labs by creating registration, licensing, mandating pain relief, and establishing both animal care committees as well as minimum space requirements for animals in labs.
- 1988** Sweden A law is passed establishing that animal experiments can only take place after non-animal alternatives are considered and requires steps be taken to reduce needless suffering.
- 1986** Australia Victoria: The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act passes, establishing critical guidelines for licensing and animal care in experiments.
- UK Parliament passes the Animals Scientific Procedures Act 1986 which requires researchers to consider the use of alternative testing methods before testing on animals. If alternatives will not work in the experiment, a license must be acquired to use animals.
- EU The European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes is put into effect to reduce the number of experiments and also animals used in these purposes. It also encourages not to use animals in experiments, except for the case if there is no alternative.
- 1985** USA Congress passes the Health Research Act, establishing the need for entities conducting animal experiments to form committees (IACUCs) intended to review the welfare concerns related to those experiments.
- Congress amends the AWA to establish core principles of “Reduce, Replace, and Refine” (the Three Rs), establish IACUCs to oversee animal experiments, and require primates’ psychological wellbeing be given greater consideration.
- Australia In New South Wales, the Animal Research Act of 1985 passes, which requires the accreditation of research establishments and animal suppliers’ licenses.
- The use of animals for the purpose of teaching or research is prohibited in South Australia unless licensed under Animal Welfare Act.
- 1977** Netherlands Parliament passes the Experiments on Animals Act of 1977, which banned cosmetics testing, great ape testing, and put additional limitations on animal experiments.
- 1976** USA Congress amends the AWA to establish a commission on whether animals are needlessly suffering in experiments. Also established a requirement for health certification prior to animal transport.
- France Law passes establishing that animal experiments can only take place after non-animal alternatives are considered.
- 1972** Germany Congress passes the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), providing some protection and regulation for 6 species of animals used in experiments.
- 1970** USA Congress amends and President Nixon signs legislation expanding Animal Welfare Act coverage to all warm-blooded animals, mandating some pain relief, and giving USDA the task of enforcing the AWA.
- 1966** USA Congress passes the Animal Welfare Act, providing some protection and regulation for 6 species of animals used in experiments.
- 1876** UK UK passes world’s first legislation to regulate the use and treatment of live animals in scientific research, and provided specific protections for dogs, cats and equidae, too.

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