

Advancing Humane Science

Behind the closed doors of the world's research and testing laboratories, untold millions of animals suffer and die, sometimes for nothing more than a new household cleaner or superfluous data with no real relevance to human health or safety. The HSUS and Humane Society International have been calling for an end to the most inhumane practices, such as experiments that cause severe, unalleviated pain or distress.

We also lead the way in promoting alternatives to the use of animals in research and testing. Partnering with scientists, governments, and corporations, we're working to bring about a paradigm shift in toxicity testing—one that will replace animal models with sophisticated technologies that better predict the effects of chemicals and other substances on humans.

We've made progress in our campaign to end a shady system whereby pets obtained through "free to good home" ads or outright theft can end up in research labs. At least eight research facilities have stopped accepting animals from Class B dealers in the past few years. In May 2009, the National Academies released a report stating that the Class B dealer supply chain is unnecessary. Building on the momentum generated by the report, we secured a legislative provision calling for the phaseout of federal grants to labs still purchasing dogs and cats from Class B dealers.

We're making progress on behalf of animals in research labs worldwide. In the E.U., potentially 4.5 million animals have been saved from chemical testing, while 30,000 rabbits have been spared from skin irritation tests.

Saving Our Closest Cousins

At the New Iberia Research Center, chimpanzee Sterling screamed for long periods before curling up into a ball and biting his arms and feet. Jolene chewed off her thumb while emerging from anesthesia. Infant monkeys were torn from their mothers to have tubes forced down their throats, while some chimps spent months isolated in small cages.

The HSUS's nine-month undercover investigation of the federally funded facility in Louisiana revealed routine mistreatment of hundreds of chimps and other primates. The day after The HSUS released its findings in March 2009, federal lawmakers introduced the Great Ape Protection Act to phase out the use of chimpanzees in invasive research and retire the estimated 500 federally owned chimps to permanent sanctuary. The last provision would bring about a day long awaited for 26 chimps at New Iberia who were caught in the wild decades ago; one of them, Karen, has lived behind bars since the Eisenhower administration.



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MAKING ANIMAL TESTING HISTORY

We're making headway in our campaign to end the use of animals in crude, unreliable tests for cosmetics, household products, and other substances. In June 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency adopted a nonanimal approach for testing antimicrobial cleaning products—saving countless rabbits from having these chemicals dripped in their eyes to assess toxicity. The rabbit-free approach was advanced with support from The HSUS and consumer product corporations.

We've also made progress abroad with HSI, our global affiliate, and helped push the European Chemicals Agency to issue guidance to prevent duplicative studies, potentially sparing 4.5 million animals. The EU accepted three nonanimal models for skin irritation testing—a decision that saves more than 30,000 rabbits annually—and is also funding a project we're spearheading to coordinate the development of advanced nonanimal methods by scientists on both sides of the Atlantic.

