

## **Highlights From PETA's History on the NIH Intramural Beagle Laboratory and Sepsis Experiments on Animals**

### **The NIH Intramural Beagle Sepsis Laboratory**

**2020:** PETA released records obtained through FOIA showing that NIH was violating animal welfare guidelines in its intramural laboratories, including one in which dogs were being used in septic shock experiments. We released this publicly:

News release: <https://www.peta.org/media/news-releases/newly-released-records-show-nih-fails-to-comply-with-animal-care-standards/>

**2021:** PETA wrote to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra about these violations concerning the dogs used in septic shock experiments, as well as those involving other intramural laboratories.

Letter: <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Letter-from-PETA-to-Secretary-Becerra-July-26-2021.pdf>

**2022:** PETA highlighted the NIH intramural dog sepsis laboratory in a list of experiments on dogs from contract research organizations.

Document: <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/experiments-on-cumberland-dogs.pdf>

**2023:** PETA wrote to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy about animal welfare violations in NIH intramural laboratories, including dogs used in septic shock experiments.

Letter (see item 6 in the table): <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Letter-to-OSTP-re-NIH-intramural-labs-May-4-2023.docx.pdf>

**2024:** PETA again documented NIH's intramural septic shock experiments on dogs in a summary of the agency's internal animal welfare violations.

Document: <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/NIH-Intramural-PHS-Violations.pdf>

### **Brief Summary of PETA's Work on Sepsis**

**2013:** PETA wrote to NIH director Francis Collins about the agency continuing to fund sepsis experiments on mice despite his [acknowledging](#) that human and mouse sepsis are different conditions. PETA called for an immediate suspension of these projects and for the NIH to systematically analyze all other projects involving animals.

Letter: <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2013-03-11-ltr-to-NIH-re-PNAS-study.pdf>

**2017:** PETA's undercover investigation exposed horrific sepsis experiments on animals at the University of Pittsburgh.

Investigation: <https://investigations.peta.org/university-of-pittsburgh-laboratory-neglect/>

**2017-2018:** PETA supporters held numerous protests at NIH, HHS, and the University of Pittsburgh calling for an end to sepsis experiments on animals.

**2019-2020:** The NIH intramural sepsis experiments on dogs were documented in internal searches of NIH RePORTER for all NIH intramural and extramural sepsis experiments on animals. These searches informed PETA's subsequent lawsuit against the agency.

**2019:** PETA submitted a comprehensive report to NIH regarding its continued funding of sepsis experiments on animals. Footnote 31 shows that dogs were included in our search. The report called for an end to sepsis experiments on all animals.

Report: <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-10-23-Report-to-NIH-NIHs-Duty-to-Sepsis-Research.pdf>

**2021:** PETA filed a landmark lawsuit (which is ongoing) against HHS and NIH for continuing to fund sepsis experiments on animals (all species).

Blog: <https://www.peta.org/blog/peta-sues-nih-hhs-over-failed-sepsis-tests-on-animals/>

Filing: <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/PETA-NIH-Sepsis-Lawsuit.pdf>

**2024:** Following PETA's advocacy and lawsuit, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one of the biggest sepsis funders at NIH, announced it would stop funding the most common sepsis experiments and shift focus toward human-relevant sepsis research.

Blog: <https://www.peta.org/blog/major-health-agency-slashes-funding-for-sepsis-experiments-on-animals/>