

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

September 10, 2025

Sian Leah Beilock Ph.D.
President
Dartmouth CollegeVia e-mail: President's.Office@Dartmouth.edu; president@dartmouth.edu;
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Dear President Beilock:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 10 million members and supporters globally, over 33,000 of whom live in New Hampshire. Dartmouth College has maintained a Public Health Service-approved Animal Welfare Assurance for decades. This assurance requires adherence to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, including implementing the 3Rs principle: replacing animal use whenever possible, reducing the number of animals used, and refining procedures to minimize suffering.

Despite this, the university continues to use thousands of animals in its laboratories. A recent inventory reported that Dartmouth used more than 3,930 mice, 360 rats, and 19,000 fishes in experiments. A 2024 federal report also documented the school's use of 12 dogs, 18 rabbits, 16 pigs, and 262 other Animal Welfare Act (AWA)-covered species in its laboratories. These figures directly contradict the university's assurance to the federal government that it would reduce animal use, exposing a troubling disregard for its stated commitment to adopting non-animal replacements and reducing reliance on animal experimentation.

What exactly is Dartmouth's plan to implement the 3Rs? You have used and killed animals for years with apparently no end in sight, despite your claim to abide by the best practices. We believe the public has the right to know if the university's pledge has been truthful.

Tax dollars wasted on cruel and ineffective research

In 2024, Dartmouth College received more than \$90 million in taxpayer funding from the National Institutes of Health, with approximately half of that amount directed toward experiments on animals. These experiments included highly invasive procedures, such as deliberately inducing [brain cancer in four-month-old pigs](#) by first giving them a mix of drugs to weaken their immune systems, then cutting open their heads and injecting tumor cells directly into their brains. Within 10 days, the tumors grew rapidly, causing

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some pigs to lose their appetite and become lethargic, and the pigs were ultimately killed. In another laboratory, experimenters performed [brain surgeries on seven-day-old rats](#) and injected chemicals into their brains to mimic schizophrenia-like changes. They were then forced to binge drink alcohol and later repeatedly given nicotine before being killed. These rats were purportedly used as an attempted “model” for human mental illness—despite significant and undeniable differences between human and rat physiology and behavior.

You must be aware that numerous studies dating back more than two decades reveal the failure of animal experiments to lead to cures and treatments for human beings. Conferences, papers, and all manner of information sources show the availability of countless superior, non-animal research methods that produce far more reliable and species-relevant results for human health than experiments on animals. PETA scientists’ [Research Modernization Now](#) provides a detailed strategy for replacing experiments on animals with humane and human-relevant methods. Have you read it, and what is your plan to implement it or alternative solutions to this burgeoning use of animals on your campus?

Failure to comply with federal animal welfare regulations and guidelines

Dartmouth College has repeatedly failed to comply with minimum federal animal welfare regulations and guidelines, as evidenced by multiple violations documented in federal reports. In recent years, experimenters irradiated eight mice with a dose that exceeded protocol limits, resulting in the deaths of four animals and the required euthanasia of the remaining four. In another case, three voles were found dead in a soiled cage that had been mistakenly sent to the cage wash area—without food or water—and left unnoticed for days. These chronic failures to meet even the most basic animal welfare standards demonstrate a blatant disregard for both the law and the will of the American public.

Dartmouth’s failure to adhere to the 3Rs principles undermines public trust. We ask you to address this matter of public interest without delay. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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