

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

September 10, 2025

Christopher L. Eisgruber
President
Princeton UniversityVia e-mail: m.antonetti@princeton.edu

Dear President Eisgruber:

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 170,000 of whom live in New Jersey. Princeton University 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 Princeton used approximately 9,800 mice, 650 rats, and 13,700 fishes in experiments. A 2024 federal report also documented the school's use of 58 monkeys, three guinea pigs, and 520 other Animal Welfare Act (AWA)-covered species in its laboratories. According to reports filed by Princeton with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the number of AWA-covered animals used in experiments skyrocketed by an astronomical **277.3%** from 2014 to 2024. 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 Princeton'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, Princeton University received more than \$58 million in taxpayer funding from the National Institutes of Health, with approximately half of that amount directed toward experiments on animals, many of which include highly invasive procedures. In Princeton experimenter Sabine Kastner's laboratory, experimenters [drilled holes into monkeys' skulls](#) and cemented

Washington

1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles

2624 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk

501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETAInfo@peta.org
PETA.org

Entities

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

implants onto their heads using screws. Several monkeys developed significant brain swelling from the surgery. In another laboratory, experimenters [injected mice with human stem cells](#) to create "humanized mice" meant to mimic human physiology—despite the method's well-known failures to accurately model human diseases. Experimenters then infected these mice with hepatitis B virus and HIV—a co-infection that causes severe liver damage—before killing them and cutting out their organs.

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

Princeton University has repeatedly failed to comply with minimum federal animal welfare regulations and guidelines, as evidenced by multiple violations documented in federal reports. In one case, mice were found severely underfed, and one had to be killed due to the extent of their suffering. In Sabine Kastner's laboratory, as mentioned above, the USDA cited the facility and received a whistleblower complaint after experimenters left a nickel-sized screw inside a monkey's head for eight months following surgery. The monkey developed a brain abscess—likely causing pain, fever, vomiting, seizures, and other severe symptoms. When experimenters finally performed exploratory surgery and discovered the screw, the monkey died shortly after from complications, according to the USDA. 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.

Princeton'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,



Alka Chandna, Ph.D.
Vice President
Laboratory Oversight & Special Cases
Laboratory Investigations Department