

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

September 10, 2025

Maurie McInnis, M.A., Ph.D.  
President  
Yale UniversityVia e-mail: [president@yale.edu](mailto:president@yale.edu)

Dear President McInnis:

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 80,000 of whom live in Connecticut. Yale 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 Yale used more than 45,000 mice, 680 rats, and 41,400 fishes in experiments. A 2024 federal report also documented the school's use of 12 dogs, 434 hamsters, 155 monkeys, 69 guinea pigs, 20 rabbits, two sheep, 92 pigs, and 1,302 other Animal Welfare Act (AWA)-covered species in its laboratories. According to reports filed by Yale with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the number of AWA-covered animals used in experiments skyrocketed by **53.7%** from 2020 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 Yale'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, Yale University received more than \$645 million in taxpayer funding from the National Institutes of Health, with approximately half of that amount directed toward experiments on animals. These included highly invasive procedures—for example, exposing [pregnant monkeys to X-irradiation](#) aimed at the heads of their developing fetuses. The monkeys were subjected to multiple radiation sessions over several days. After birth,

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the babies were forcibly separated from their mothers within six months. Experimenters then subjected them to years of brain and behavioral tests until adulthood. Ultimately, the experimenters killed the monkeys and cut out their brains. In another laboratory, Yale experimenters [induced sepsis in mice](#) by cutting open their abdomens, pulling out part of their intestines, and poking holes to release bacteria—causing severe infection and inflammation. The mice were subjected to multiple fluid and blood draws, along with drug injections. Experimenters then killed and dissected them.

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**

Yale University 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, mice underwent painful procedures—including toe amputations, tail biopsies, craniotomies, and skin biopsies—without proper pain relief, violating federal and ethical guidelines. At least two mice were killed by exsanguination through the eye socket without anesthesia—an excruciating method—and this was *not reported* to oversight bodies. In another case, 138 mice were denied post-surgical pain relief, as required by the protocol. These violations aren't isolated—they reflect a pattern of neglect that has resulted in egregious animal suffering in Yale's laboratories. This points to institutional failure and a blatant disregard for both the law and the will of the American public.

Yale'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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