



December 9, 2024

Gary S. May
Chancellor
University of California, Davis

Via e-mail: chancellor@ucdavis.edu

Dear Chancellor May:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, nearly 675,000 of whom live in California. For at least a decade, the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) has publicly stated^{1,2,3} its adherence to the 3Rs principle of replacing, reducing, and refining the use of animals in experiments.

Despite these public proclamations, the university continues to use hundreds of thousands of animals in its laboratories. A November 2023 inventory reported that UC Davis used more than 292,665 mice, rats, fishes, birds, amphibians, and reptiles in experiments. Additionally, a 2023 federal report documented that the school held or used 36 dogs, 249 cats, 12 guinea pigs, 86 hamsters, 171 rabbits, 5,354 nonhuman primates, 417 sheep, 114 pigs, and 1,790 other animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act in its laboratories. These figures contradict the university's assertions of reducing animal use, revealing a troubling disregard for its stated intention to adopt non-animal replacements and reduce reliance on animal experimentation.

What exactly has been UC Davis's plan to implement the 3Rs and what, specifically, is your plan for next year, 2025? We believe the public has the right to know if the University's pledge has been truthful.

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 Deal](#) provides a detailed strategy for replacing experiments on animals with humane and human-relevant

¹Facts about the California National Primate Research Center at UC Davis,

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/facts-california-national-primate-research-center-uc-davis>

²Animals in Research and Teaching at UC Davis, [https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/animals-research-and-teaching-uc-](https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/animals-research-and-teaching-uc-davis/#:~:text=At%20UC%20Davis%20we%20both,methods%20to%20improve%20animal%20welfare.)

[davis/#:~:text=At%20UC%20Davis%20we%20both,methods%20to%20improve%20animal%20welfare.](https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/animals-research-and-teaching-uc-davis/#:~:text=At%20UC%20Davis%20we%20both,methods%20to%20improve%20animal%20welfare.)

³Animal Alternatives Information from UC Davis, [https://norecopa.no/3r-guide/animal-](https://norecopa.no/3r-guide/animal-alternatives-information-from-uc-davis/#:~:text=UC%20Davis%20University%20Library%20provides%20a%20website.assist%20scientists%20in%20searching%20for%203R%20alternatives)

[alternatives-information-from-uc-davis/#:~:text=UC%20Davis%20University%20Library%20provides%20a%20website.assist%20scientists%20in%20searching%20for%203R%20alternatives](https://norecopa.no/3r-guide/animal-alternatives-information-from-uc-davis/#:~:text=UC%20Davis%20University%20Library%20provides%20a%20website.assist%20scientists%20in%20searching%20for%203R%20alternatives)

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methods. Have you read it and/or what is your own plan to implement it or alternative solutions to this burgeoning use of animals on your campus?

In 2023, UC Davis received nearly \$280 million in taxpayer funding from the National Institutes of Health, with approximately half of that amount directed towards experiments on animals. Among these, macaque monkeys were locked into a room that was continually filled with tobacco smoke for seven-day periods to study the effects of secondhand smoke on vision loss. The primates were then killed so their organs could be dissected. Experimenters at UC Davis have permanently separated baby monkeys from their mothers to study the impact of this early-life stress on hormone regulation. And others have subjected small titi monkeys to a series of invasive procedures ostensibly for the purpose of studying jealousy in monogamous animals.

UC Davis'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

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