

EPA plan to end animal testing by 2035 pits environmental groups against animal rights activists

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, D.C., announced that it will stop conducting or funding studies on mammals by 2035. The move, which is already eliciting strong reactions from groups supporting or opposing experiments on animals, makes EPA the first federal agency to put a hard deadline on phasing out animal research.

EPA's decision "is a decisive win for taxpayers, animals, and the environment," says Justin Goodman, vice president of advocacy and public policy at the White Coat Waste Project, a Washington, D.C.-based animal activist group that has slammed such research as a waste of taxpayer money. "Animal tests are unreliable and misleading," he asserts.

But Jennifer Sass, a senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, a Washington, D.C.-based environmental group, blasts EPA's decision. "It's very disappointing and very frustrating," Sass says. Ending animal testing, she argues, "is going to allow potentially dangerous chemicals to get out there into the environment and into consumer products."

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