Ending Medical Testing on Animals in the USA

A nationwide poll of 1,000 adults conducted by SurveyUSA
August 2019
Key findings

Nearly 9 in 10 would back a law to require medical researchers to use scientifically valid alternative tests whenever possible.

When given facts about animal testing, Americans’ opinions change markedly; support for medical testing on animals falls from 52% to 29%.

59% of participants said they were more likely to vote for a candidate who supported the use of alternatives.
The following information was provided to participants which drastically changed their views on animal testing:

“Currently, the federal government spends over $12 billion taxpayer dollars a year on animal testing for medical research through The National Institutes of Health, or NIH. The differences between animals and humans mean that many tests show one thing in animals, but a completely different thing in humans. NIH has acknowledged that "animal models often fail to provide good ways to mimic disease or predict how drugs will work in humans, resulting in much wasted time and money while patients wait for therapies," and that close to 9 out of 10 new medications fail because they are found to be dangerous or ineffective in humans despite having been successfully tested in animals.”
Public opinion after information...

- 74% of participants were unaware of the information provided
- 62% of participants prior to this survey were unaware that alternatives to animal testing existed
Support for alternatives

- 79% of participants believed that the NIH should prioritize funding research proposal that use scientifically valid alternatives to animal testing.

- 80% believe medical researchers should provide evidence that there is no suitable non-animal alternatives before receiving taxpayers funding for animal testing.
Support for a federal law

- 88% of participants would support a federal law which would require medical researchers to use scientifically valid alternatives tests whenever possible.

- While 59% were more likely to support a candidate for office who supported such a law.
From the 59% that were more likely to support a candidate that was in favor for a federal law that made researchers use scientifically valid alternative whenever possible, 63% would affiliate themselves as Democrats, 60% as independent, and 56% as Republican.
By the end of the survey, participants supporting animal testing in medical research fell from 52% to 29%.

Those opposed climbed from 34% to 58%.

The number strongly opposed nearly doubled, from 16% to 30%.

Strong opposition to animal testing
Methodology

• The survey had 1,000 US adult participants across 50 states

• Research was conducted online between 29th August and 30th August 2019

• The survey was conducted by SurveyUSA