

# Laboratory Animal Care Audit

Findings from 2023 USDA inspections of laboratories that use animals



The National Anti-Vivisection Society has assembled a report detailing Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations at laboratories that used animals in 2023<sup>1</sup>. The goals of the Laboratory Animal Care Audit (LACA) are to raise awareness of the conditions that lab animals are subjected to and encourage action to address concerns about the use of animals in research.

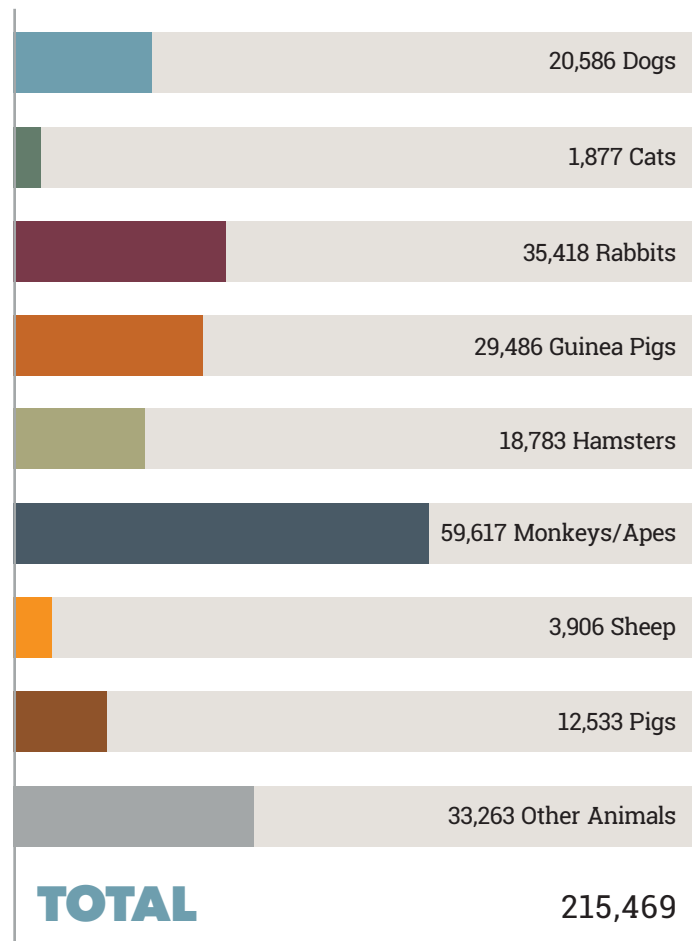
## Report Highlights<sup>2</sup>:

- The report details violations found at 90 laboratories that use animals in 34 states.
- California has the highest number of laboratories detailed in the report (12). Texas (8), Massachusetts (7), and New York (6) are also heavily represented.
- Charles River Laboratories reported housing and using 46,694 animals for research and testing purposes in 2023, more than any other facility in the report<sup>3</sup>.
- Thirteen of the 90 facilities (8.9%) detailed in the report have been issued a fine for 2023 violations of the AWA.

## Common violations found during 2023 USDA inspections:

- Inadequate personnel training causing animal harm and death.
- Mishandling of animals resulting in injuries and fatalities.
- Lack of essential veterinary care, including failure to provide pain relief.
- Poor sanitation and waste management practices.
- Conducting unapproved experimental procedures on animals.
- Animals escaping enclosures and sustaining injuries.
- Insufficient housing for various species, from hamsters to horses.

## In 2023, the laboratories detailed in LACA were responsible for the care of:



<sup>1</sup>Data gathering only included facilities registered by the USDA.

<sup>2</sup>All data is publicly available through the USDA website and includes information from USDA inspection reports and FY2023 annual reports.

# Excerpts from the 2023 Laboratory Animal Welfare Audit



## Western Maricopa Education Center, Arizona

A student witnessed another student slap a 1-year-old Staffordshire terrier named Harold across the head during handling activities.

## Amphastar Laboratories Inc., California

Three rabbits suffered spinal fractures while being handled by staff, resulting in the veterinarian killing all three rabbits.

## Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation, California

A pig was anesthetized for about 30 minutes when the vet left a technician to oversee it. After five minutes the vet returned and attempted to revive the pig without success. The vet stated, "Pigs are sensitive to anesthesia, and it is not uncommon for incidents like this to occur."

## University of California at Davis, California

Two monkeys were being transported for an experiment. Upon arrival at the receiving building, one monkey was left in the van. During a check of the monkey in the van, she was found unresponsive, never regained consciousness, and was ultimately killed.

## Bronco Research Services, Colorado

One Beagle identified as "4571542" got part of its foot stuck between the slats in the cage flooring and began vocalizing. Per a facility representative, this has been seen before with Beagles.

## Emory University, Georgia

A 2-year-old monkey was found dead in an outdoor cage. She was found with her head inside a gap in the wall dividing two cages.

## Fort Valley State University, Georgia

Seven cats were housed in cages that did not meet the 24-inch height requirement. Two of the cats were seen crouching to move around their cage.

## University of Georgia

While under anesthesia, a dog suffered an injury when an electrical current that should have been paused during the experiment was instead given continuously. The dog was limping the following day and was found to have third-degree burns on a forelimb that required surgical intervention.

## University of Illinois at Chicago

A female baboon showed signs of dehydration, including open mouth breathing and loss of muscle control. The baboon was ultimately killed. The cause of dehydration was a water valve malfunction that went unnoticed.

## Tulane University, Louisiana

Pieces of rodent bait were found inside of animal enclosures on several occasions, necessitating medical treatment for monkeys to prevent adverse effects of rodent poison.

## University of Michigan

A lab member euthanized four rabbits but did not perform the necessary secondary method of euthanasia. A female rabbit that was supposedly killed was discovered alive the next morning.

## MRIGlobal, Missouri

Two monkeys were killed after they received a test formula injection into their hamstrings. The test formula was supposed to be injected into the calf muscle. The animals were killed because they could not provide scientifically valid data.

## Merck Sharp and Dohme LLC, New Jersey

A cage containing two guinea pigs was placed on a flatbed carrying dirty cages. The flatbed was then rolled into an autoclave, a machine that uses extreme temperatures to sterilize equipment. The guinea pigs died.

## Oregon Health and Science University

A baby monkey was injured when a technician was trying to transfer the baby and its mother to another cage, and the sliding door between the cages fell on the baby. The two-day-old monkey sustained an untreatable spinal/shoulder injury and had to be killed.

## Texas Biomedical Research Institute

A monkey had to have several fingers amputated after a caretaker lost grip on the guillotine door during cage sanitation, causing it to fall on the monkey's hand.

## Altasciences Preclinical Seattle LLC, Washington

An employee was seen tossing a sedated monkey in the air and then catching it in her arms. On one toss the animal was not caught and fell to the floor.