



New York Cruelty Free Cosmetics Act

Summary: Prohibits the sale of any cosmetic product that has been tested on animals after the date of enactment.

The New York Cruelty Free Cosmetics Act will prohibit the sale of any cosmetic product that has been tested on animals after the date January 1, 2023, thus bringing New York in line with California, Nevada, Illinois, Virginia, Maryland, Maine, Hawaii and New Jersey as well as with over 40 countries which already prohibit the sale of new animal-tested cosmetics.

Historically, animals have been used in painful tests to demonstrate that cosmetics are effective and safe to use. Yet transferring the results of animal tests to humans has proven to be problematic and misleading in many cases. Instead, safety can be assured by using approved tests that do not use animals, and by sticking to the many combinations of existing ingredients that have already been established as safe for human use.

New York has long been a leader in promoting humane alternatives to cruel and outdated animal tests. In 2008, New York became one of only three states to make it unlawful to use animals for testing when an appropriate validated alternative method is available. In 2016, New York was the first state to see a cruelty free cosmetics sales act introduced.

Passing New York Cruelty Free Cosmetics Act would have international significance and could be the catalyst needed to finally push the federal Humane Cosmetic Act forward to ensure that animals are no longer harmed for the sake of cosmetics anywhere.

Key points:

- Modern non-animal tests for cosmetics safety are accurate, efficient, and affordable. The tests usually carried out on animals for cosmetics ingredients have non-animal tests at similar or lower costs which have been approved by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as official Test Guidelines. The tests have comparable or higher predictive value for effects on humans than the animal tests that they replace.
- Only *new* animal testing is impacted. Animal testing that took place in the past, prior to enactment of the law, would not be considered a breach of the cruelty free cosmetics requirement.
- This is an issue that unites voters across generations and political affiliations. A September 2019 [poll](#) conducted by SurveyUSA revealed that nearly 8 out of 10 [79%] of poll respondents said that they would support a law that would prohibit animal testing for cosmetics. When broken down by self-reported party affiliation 83% of Democrats, 72% of Republicans, and 80% of Independents support or strongly support a law. Likewise, the poll revealed that there is no generational divide: 76% of those aged 50-64 said they are against animal testing for cosmetics, followed by 75% of those 65 and over, 72% of 34 to 49-year olds and 65% of those aged 18-34.
- On January 1, 2020, cruelty free cosmetics laws in California, Nevada and Illinois came into force. Virginia, Maryland, Maine, Hawaii, and New Jersey all passed similar new laws in 2021. Other states have also considered legislation.