

# **Open Letter Calling For a Government-Led Plan to Phase Out Animal Testing**

Dear Prime Minister:

We are writing to urge the new government to develop a roadmap – with an ambitious timeframe, clear milestones, and achievable goals – to reduce experiments on animals, with the objective of phasing out their use entirely.

## **The Need for a Transition Away From Experiments on Animals**

It has been estimated that a “novel drug can take 10 to 15 years and more than \$2 billion to develop, and failure rates occur in about 95 percent of human studies”.<sup>1</sup> Clearly there is a problem with the current paradigm for developing and testing drugs and getting them to market, and animal use has been identified as one of the contributing factors.<sup>2</sup> As well as causing unspeakable suffering to animals, numerous scientific studies and reviews reveal that experiments on animals translate poorly into effective treatments and cures for human diseases, including the top killers in the UK.<sup>3</sup> Far more could be gained from using non-animal approaches that are better suited to solving questions in biomedical research and regulatory assessment.<sup>4,5</sup>

## **Opportunities for the UK**

The urgent need to transition away from using animals and towards human-relevant, non-animal approaches is already changing policies around the globe, and the benefits to animal welfare, public health, scientific advancement, and the economy have been widely recognised.<sup>6-11</sup> To date, successive UK governments have done little to reduce experiments on animals, but new leadership could make a lasting impact on the UK science sector and reap the associated benefits across industry, employment, the economy, public health, and animal welfare.

## **Public Opinion**

Animal welfare is of great concern to the electorate, and the public wants to see more being done to move away from experiments on animals, including a policy to end animal testing<sup>12</sup> and greater investment in non-animal methods.<sup>13</sup>

## **A Roadmap to Reduce and Ultimately Phase Out Experiments on Animals**

It is crucial the nation does not fall behind international developments in accelerating 21<sup>st</sup> century science. Continued reliance on animal-based methods is a significant obstacle to the UK’s becoming a world leader in science. Therefore, we are urging the government to commit to a roadmap for reducing and ultimately phasing out experiments on animals, as well as hastening the uptake and further development of sophisticated non-animal methods in order to reap the benefits that they can bring to the UK public and animals.

We, the undersigned, call for a government-led roadmap – with an ambitious timeframe, clear milestones, and achievable goals – to reduce experiments on animals, with the objective of phasing out their use entirely.

Most respectfully,

The undersigned.\*

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\*This letter illustrates the view and opinion of the signatories but not necessarily of their associated organisations.

## **Signatories**

Jamie Bamber Griffith, PETA campaigner and actor  
Lord Andrew Sharpe of Epsom OBE, Peer  
Baroness Jenny Jones of Moulsecoomb, Peer  
Lord Andrew Stone of Blackheath, Peer  
Lord Christopher Rennard MBE, Peer  
Bob Blackman MP, Conservative MP  
Maureen Burke MP, Labour MP  
Irene Campbell MP, Labour MP  
Sarah Champion MP, Labour MP  
Ellie Chowns MP, Labour MP  
Neil Duncan-Jordan MP, Labour MP  
Adam Dance MP, Liberal Democrat MP  
Steve Darling MP, Liberal Democrat MP  
Cat Eccles MP, Labour MP  
Bill Esterson MP, Labour MP  
Will Forster MP, Liberal Democrat MP  
Wera Hobhouse MP, Liberal Democrat MP  
Kim Johnson MP, Labour MP  
Ayoub Khan MP, Independent MP  
Brian Leishman MP, Scottish Labour Party MP  
Carla Lockhart MP, Democratic Unionist Party MP  
Rachael Maskell MP, Labour (Co-op) MP  
John McDonnell MP, Labour MP  
Abtisam Mohamed MP, Labour MP  
Adrian Ramsay MP, Green Party MP and Co-leader  
Jim Shannon MP, Democratic Unionist Party MP  
Alex Sobel MP, Labour (Co-op) MP  
Zarah Sultana MP, Labour MP  
Sammy Wilson MP, Democratic Unionist Party MP  
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Deidre Brock, Former Scottish National Party MP  
Martyn Day, Former Scottish National Party MP  
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Julie Westerby, Liberal Democrat Councillor  
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Bridget Fox, Former Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate  
Lauren Fulbright, Former Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary Candidate  
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Josh Matthews, Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists  
Katherine Ewing, Green Liberal Democrats  
Gavin Grant, South Cotswolds Liberal Democrats Chair, former CEO to the RSPCA  
Josh Nightingale, East Midlands Young Liberals Chair  
Lucy Hurds, Herefordshire Liberal Democrats Chair  
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Karen Gallington, Liberal Democrat Member  
Mark Goodwin, Liberal Democrat Member  
Thomas Gravatt, Liberal Democrat Member  
Susan Heinrich, Liberal Democrat Member  
Daisy Hogg, Liberal Democrat Member  
Ian Jenkins, Liberal Democrat Member  
Joan Kenning, Liberal Democrat Member  
Robert Marcus, Liberal Democrat Member  
Jon Nicholas, Liberal Democrat Member  
Pablo O'Hana, Liberal Democrat Member  
Alex Purvis, Liberal Democrat Member  
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Animal Aid  
Animal Defenders International  
Animal Free Research UK  
Cruelty Free International  
Crustacean Compassion  
Humane Society International UK  
Lush Prize  
Naturewatch Foundation  
OneKind  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) UK  
Replacing Animal Research

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