

# ANIMALACTION

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY 🐾 FALL 2022

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The National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) is dedicated to ending the exploitation of animals used in science.

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## NAVS Makes Recommendations to NASEM Primate Research Committee

Earlier this year, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) assembled a 15-member ad hoc committee at the request of Congress to “examine the current role of and future needs for nonhuman primates in biomedical research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).” NAVS was in virtual attendance at the committee’s first public meeting.

Over the course of that meeting, we could not help but notice the distinct similarities between the current committee and one convened more than a decade ago, in 2011, that was charged with determining the value of continuing the use of chimpanzees in research. It also quickly became apparent that the current committee’s composition is heavily lopsided in favor of members who have built their careers on the use of primates as a scientific model.

The 2011 committee gave serious consideration to the ethical issues surrounding chimpanzee use, and concluded that “the chimpanzee’s genetic proximity to humans and the resulting biological and behavioral characteristics...demand a greater justification for conducting research using this animal model,” further finding that most research being done on chimpanzees was unnecessary. These findings weighed heavily in the NIH’s decision, just a few years later, to end the use of all chimpanzees in biomedical research.

NAVS believes that the same ethical reasoning that was used by the committee in 2011 should extend to the nonhuman primates (NHPs) that are used in research today.

Noting the clear imbalance in the committee’s composition as well as the direct connections between this current committee and the one held in 2011, NAVS has submitted a formal letter to NASEM. In it, we make several recommendations for how the committee can best address its imbalance and the many ethical considerations inherent in the use of primate research.

Our recommended actions are:

- the examination of the failure of NHP models, in particular in regard to questions of necessity;
- increased collaboration among NHP researchers for purposes of information sharing, which can, among other benefits, help reduce the number of animals used;
- the use of new approach methodologies, or NAMs, to replace—not complement—NHP use; and
- a full disclosure of any conflicts of interest among committee members who use NHPs in research.

We hope that with our comments in mind, and the important work done by the 2011 committee as precedent, the NASEM committee will fully and accurately assess the need—or lack thereof—for the continued use of NHPs in research.

You can read NAVS’ letter at [navs.org/NASEM](https://navs.org/NASEM).



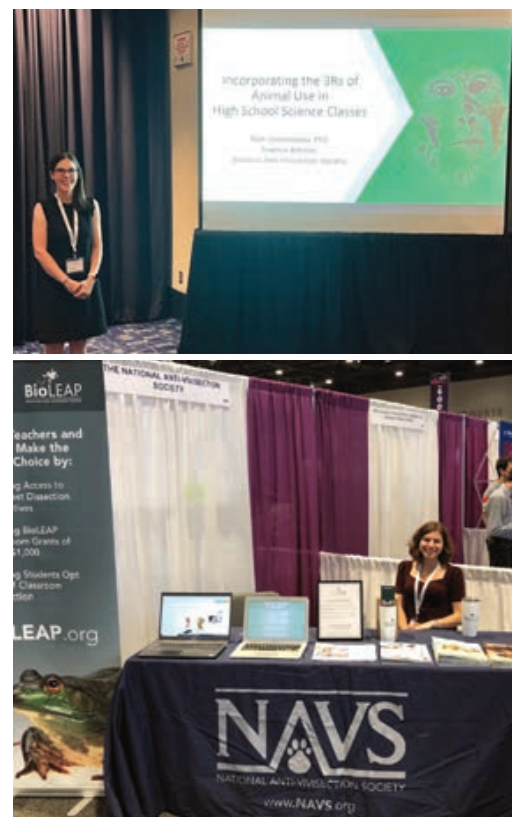
## NAVS Shares New 3Rs Curriculum at Summer Educator Conferences

NAVS and IFER Science Advisor Dr. Pam Osenkowski was invited to present NAVS' new 3Rs curriculum for high school students at two educator conferences this summer: the National Science Teaching Association conference in Chicago in July and the virtual Educator for Animals conference sponsored by Humane Canada in August. The curriculum introduces students to topics pertaining to animal use in scientific research and education and opportunities to implement the 3Rs—replacement, reduction, and refinement—of animal use.

"I'm really excited to share these new resources with educators," Dr. Osenkowski said. "NAVS has worked hard to curate content and create engaging modules that make it easier for teachers to have important conversations with their students about how animals are used in science and education today. We want students to learn about new and innovative alternatives to animal use during the earliest stages of their educational journeys."

Dr. Osenkowski was part of a cross-disciplinary team of teachers, subject matter experts and curriculum developers who designed the materials, which are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and other recognized standards to make it easier for educators to incorporate the learning modules into their lesson plans.

"We are excited to have had platforms at two educator conferences to help spread the word about our 3Rs curriculum," Dr. Osenkowski said. "We look forward to teachers having these resources available to use in their classrooms."



NAVS Science Advisor Dr. Pam Osenkowski (top) and Staff Research Assistant Anna Madsen (bottom) presented and represented NAVS at the National Science Teaching Association conference in Chicago.

## NAVS Awards First Round of BioLEAP Classroom Grants

Surveys of biology teachers have shown that one major roadblock in making the switch to humane dissections in the classroom is the cost. While humane alternatives can be more effective in the long run, the up-front costs can be challenging for schools used to budgeting for preserved specimens.

To help relieve these financial worries and ease the transition to a dissection-free classroom, NAVS created the **BioLEAP Classroom Grant**: an award to help teachers purchase humane dissection tools. Earlier this year, applicants from across the United States sent NAVS their proposals for how they would use the funds to replace traditional dissection in their classroom.

In June 2022, we awarded our first ever BioLEAP Classroom Grants to eight teachers who are planning to implement humane education tools into their curriculum during the 2022-2023 school year. Thanks to your support, students from coast to coast will be able to learn about anatomy and other life science topics without the use of animal specimens.

Grant recipients will be using their awards to purchase synthetic frog models and digital dissection software, to create online guided lessons, to teach anatomy via virtual reality, and to develop other innovative curricula that will allow them to foster a safe and cruelty-free environment where their students can enjoy learning about anatomy without having to sacrifice animal lives.

You can meet all of the recipients of the 2022-2023 BioLEAP Classroom Grant and learn about the humane lessons they have planned for the coming school year at [navs.org/bioleapwinners](https://navs.org/bioleapwinners).







## Hope at the federal level:

The federal FDA Modernization Act, which would clarify that animal data is not mandatory for Food and Drug Administration approval of new drugs and open the door for superior, human-based drug toxicity testing methods, was included in a larger bill package that has passed the House of Representatives. The Senate is still working on their FDA legislative package, which contains similar language.

What members of Congress have to say about the FDA Modernization Act:

**"The FDA Modernization Act** would accelerate innovation and get safer, more effective drugs to market more quickly by cutting red tape that is not supported by current science...It would also prevent the needless suffering and death of animal test subjects—which is something I think both Republican and Democrats can agree needs to end."

- *U.S. Senator Rand Paul, R-KY*

"Thanks to modern scientific innovation, the use of animal toxicity testing for experimental drugs has become increasingly obsolete...This legislation will eliminate unnecessary suffering for countless animals when scientifically reliable alternative testing methods are available."

- *U.S. Senator Cory Booker, D-NJ*



Lawmakers always keep the NAVS Advocacy Team on our toes. We are happy to report that so far this year we are on our toes dancing with glee at what has been accomplished to protect lab animals around the country.

Here is a look at successes worthy of celebration so far this year (as of June 30, 2022):

## State level success:

2

**states (Louisiana and New York\*) have passed Humane Cosmetics Acts to ban the sale of cosmetics that have been tested on animals.**

*\*At publishing time, the NY bill was awaiting signature from the governor.*

2

**states (Iowa and Massachusetts) have passed post-research adoption bills to help dogs and cats get adopted after "retirement" from the lab.**

5

**bills were passed in Virginia to step up protections of dogs and cats in breeding facilities that sell animals to laboratories.**

"This historic package of bills I signed today clarifies that dogs and cats bred and sold for experimental purposes are protected by Virginia's cruelty-to-animals law, will help ensure welfare standards and save lives, and will give Virginia the authority to take action when welfare violations occur."

- *Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin*

Quotes and stats from *National Geographic* article “What do we owe former lab chimps?” by Rachel Fobar, June 16, 2022.

“Chimps have not been used in invasive biomedical research—any research that causes injury, pain, or distress—in U.S. laboratories since 2015. But what to do with the former research chimps—and how to pay for their costly lifetime care—is a continuing conundrum.... The unresolved fate of the former research chimps offers a cautionary tale about ethical quandaries and obligations to animals used in research intended to benefit humans.”

>250

The number of chimpanzees that remain in laboratories

>300

The number of chimpanzees housed at Chimp Haven, the national chimpanzee sanctuary

\$17,000/year

Estimated cost of feeding and caring for a captive chimpanzee, according to Chimp Haven, the world's largest chimpanzee sanctuary

18

Number of chimpanzees that remain at the Wildlife Waystation, a sanctuary in California that has closed. (NAVS is helping fund the transfer of these chimps to permanent sanctuary homes).

5

The number of biomedical research facilities in the U.S. that hold chimpanzees formerly used for research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH):

- The Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research
- Southwest National Primate Research Center
- Alamogordo Primate Facility
- Emory University's Yerkes National Primate Research Center
- New Iberia Research Center, owned by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette



The ethical concerns that contributed to the NIH ending biomedical research on chimpanzees are no less relevant when it comes to other nonhuman primates (NHPs). As part of our ongoing, multifaceted efforts on behalf of NHPs, NAVS is making formal recommendations to a federal government committee charged with considering their future use in research. Read more on pg. 2 of this issue of *Animal Action*.





# IN A PIG'S EYE!

**Xenotransplantation is the latest threat to animals—and it's not so great for humans, either.**



In 2021, xenotransplantation—the transplantation of living cells, tissues or organs from one species to another—made headlines around the world after surgeons successfully transplanted a genetically modified pig heart into a human patient for the first time. And though the patient died two months later, scientists are increasingly viewing organ harvesting from animals as a viable solution to the pressing concern of organ shortages for human transplantation.

It is true that the organ shortage is a life-threatening health problem. According to the Health Resources & Services Administration website, 106,102 men, women and children are currently on the national transplant waiting list. An average of 17 people die each day in the United States awaiting organ transplants. Compare that to the approximately 40,000 transplants that were performed in 2021, and it is easy to see the problem. There is a clear organ-need to organ-received disparity. While the problem is clear, however, the proposed solution of xenotransplantation is murky at best.

On its face, the practice of xenotransplantation is morally bankrupt. Stripped of fancy terminology and futuristic science, xenotransplantation is essentially the use of animals for spare parts for humans. From the 1960s through the 1990s, researchers transplanted livers, kidneys and hearts from chimpanzees and baboons into people—with limited success. While the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced a de facto ban on clinical trials of xenotransplantation from non-human primates to humans in 1999, citing concern of cross-species infection, baboons are still used as intermediaries to test how pig organs might survive in humans. Yes, you read that right: organs from pigs are first transplanted to baboons to test potential human usage.

Pigs are now the most common animal used for xenotransplantation because the size of their organs is comparable to that of humans. Further, the fact that these animals are also viewed as a food source demonstrates the low regard we as a society have for their well-being. However, their considerable intellect, emotional intelligence, and complex social structures make their use in xenotransplantation highly unethical.

The conditions in which pigs bred for organ harvesting must be raised—confined, sterile, solitary conditions to minimize the risk of pathogen proliferation—violate established best practices for animal care and welfare, which include ethologically appropriate environments that meet behavioral and physiological needs. While some argue that the conditions are a humane step up from how pigs raised for food are kept, it is hardly a moral triumph when comparing care standards to the cruelest animal industry in modern civilization.

The above concerns don't even touch on what may be the most important moral consideration: where do we draw the line when pigs are genetically modified, in whole or in part, to grow human organs, and therefore have some genetic relationship to humans? In other words, as we make pigs more human-like in an effort to harvest organs, at what point are they too human-like to be used for organ harvesting? If xenotransplantation continues down its current path, these uncomfortable questions need to be considered at length.

If moral considerations are not enough to dissuade researchers from pursuing xenotransplantation, public health risks should give them—and us—pause. With the world having just experienced the largest pandemic in more than a century, the public health concerns associated with xenotransplantation are horrifying. Pigs carry porcine endogenous retroviruses, which can make humans extremely ill. The viruses are often not recognized until after they create disastrous epidemics—such as the 2009 swine flu epidemic that took about 250,000 human lives.

Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have voiced unease over the potential spread of zoonotic disease linked to xenotransplantation. Simply put, the potential for transmission of known and unknown pathogens by xenotransplantation is impossible to quantify or predict. This begs the question: is the risk worth it while safer means of organ acquisition go unpursued?

#### *So, what is the answer?*

Top of mind for a safer path out of the current organ shortage is implementation of an “opt-out” law. This solution challenges the narrative of an “organ shortage” because, upon proper inspection, the issue is not that there is a shortage of organs, but rather a shortage of people choosing to donate their organs upon their death. The current system in the United States is built on an “opt-in” policy, in which Americans are automatically excluded from organ donation programs unless they specifically choose to register as a donor. “Opt-out” policies would reverse this, ensuring that all Americans are automatically registered for organ donation upon turning 18, unless they request to be excluded.

In countries that have implemented “opt-out” laws, more than 90% of people are registered to donate their organs. In the U.S. and other “opt-in” countries, fewer than 15% of people register to donate their organs. Implementation of an “opt-out” law in the United States would dramatically and instantaneously increase the number of organs available for donation, diminishing—if not eliminating—the “need” to turn to animal organs.

There's more that can be done, as well, before jumping to animals for spare parts.

Additional areas of focus should include:

- advancement of tissue preservation techniques so that donated human organs stay viable for longer periods of time,
- tweaking of the regulations that dictate which organs meet the standard for donation, and
- a continued focus on prevention and better access to healthcare to treat common diseases that lead to a need for an organ transplant.

While not as flashy and headline grabbing as xenotransplantation, these commonsense changes would help increase the number of organs available for transplant without risking future pandemics and moral bankruptcy.

And we'll save a lot of lives—animal and human—in the process.





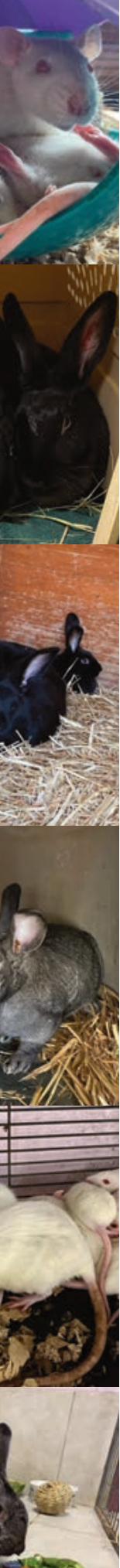
# A “NEW LIFE” FOR FORMER RESEARCH ANIMALS

Earlier in 2022, New Life Animal Sanctuary in Lake Elsinore, California, found itself presented with the opportunity to undertake an extensive rescue of dozens of animals who had previously been used in research laboratories. Over the course of several weeks, New Life took in 32 rabbits rescued from one research lab, along with a pig and six pregnant rats rescued from a second research lab.

Such an effort did not come without financial need, however. NAVS, through our Animal Sanctuary Assistance Program, provided New Life, whose motto is “Life After Labs,” with a \$10,000 grant to aid in transitioning these animals from the laboratories to their sanctuary and, eventually, into loving homes. New Life used the NAVS grant to help with relocation expenses, medical care and the construction of new enclosures for the rescued animals.

We recently had the opportunity to speak with New Life’s founder, Gina Lynn, to learn more about the sanctuary, this rescue effort, and the animals who were helped.





### **NAVS: Can you tell us a bit about your sanctuary?**

**New Life Animal Sanctuary:** We were founded in 2008 with the mission to legally rescue and rehabilitate animals from laboratories. We either get animals adopted out into loving homes or they live here for the duration of their natural lives.

### **NAVS: There were 32 rabbits rescued from a research lab. What was going on with those rabbits, and what did New Life do?**

**NLAS:** As is most often the case, we do not know what kind of research the rabbits were being used for. We heard about them through a third-party contact who was informed of the rabbits' possible release and is familiar with our mission.

We had already lined up foster-to-forever homes for about 20 of the rabbits with previous adopters and rescue partners, so many were only here briefly before their adopters/fosters picked them up. New Life coordinated the spay/neuter and vaccination of all 32 bunnies with the financial support of the grant from NAVS, even though some were no longer in our direct care.

### **NAVS: Can you tell us about the rabbits?**

**NLAS:** Sadly, I have to say that honestly, this particular group of bunnies included the most scared and skittish animals we've yet to see come out of a lab. Most have zero desire for human interaction—and that's OK. They have a nice big yard and indoor quarters, and they are quite content stretching out, playing with their toys and grubbing their delicious daily salads. There is one boy, now named Dexter. He's quite mellow and has been adopted by our friend Faith at PNC Critter Rescue.

### **NAVS: You also took in a pig and some pregnant rats from a different lab. How did that come about?**

**NLAS:** The same day the bunnies came from one lab, we rescued a seven-month-old Yucatan pig and six pregnant rats from a different lab. This lab contacted us directly about the pig only a few days before the bunny rescue. Because we already had our hands full with prepping for the bunnies, we almost put the pig off.

But as fate would have it, one of our board members was traveling at the time, and it was easy enough for her to redirect her flight, rent a car and go pick up the pig the very next day. While she was en route, the lab asked if we could also take the pregnant rats—and of course we said we'd be happy to! It feels like a miracle of timing because all six rats gave birth only two days later. If they had stayed in the lab any longer, the babies would have been born, only to be killed along with their mothers.

### **NAVS: Were there notable animals that stood out from that rescue?**

**NLAS:** The pig, now named Lynn, was quite scared on arrival. It was heartbreaking. She flinched at every sound or motion. She was afraid to even eat or lay down. Lynn still wasn't coming around after several days, so we decided to introduce her to Harriet, another Yucatan pig rescued from yet another lab just a few months earlier. They bonded instantly, and Lynn has been a completely different pig ever since. She now loves pets, attention, belly rubs and cuddles with her BFF Harriet every single night.

The mama rats (Crystal, Valerie, Heather, Elise, Faith and Christina) gave birth to a total of 76 precious little babies on April 2! They were sooooo tiny, and I was so nervous and overprotective for the first several weeks. But they are all grown up and healthy now and more than half have already been adopted into loving, forever homes!

### **NAVS: So, what's next for these animals?**

**NLAS:** Harriet and Lynn are loving their "Life After Labs," and we just recently rescued three more darling little Yucatan boys from the same lab that Lynn came from. It is our hope to build a new enclosure for all five pigs to live together, as well as a quarantine/temporary holding area for future rescues who will be up for adoption.

We still have about 30 beautiful rats available for adoption. Those who have been adopted are in AMAZING homes all over Southern California and Las Vegas.

The bunnies still here were just recently integrated all together and are getting along great so far. Now we just need to integrate them with our three longtime residents from a previous rescue.

### **NAVS: Why is it important to have the support of organizations like NAVS?**

**NLAS:** I do not know what we'd do without the support of NAVS and other organizations that help fund the care of these animals! We endeavor to always be able to help when a lab is willing to release any animals, but we are small and often struggle to get by month-to-month. Taking on many animals at once that you haven't budgeted for—sometimes with only a day or two of notice—is risky and challenging. Being able to count on NAVS to cover the initial needed [spay, neuter and vaccination] procedures or build an enclosure is absolutely priceless. And we are GRATEFUL beyond words!

**Meet more of the sanctuary animals that you've helped through your support for NAVS on pg. 12 of this issue of Animal Action.**



NAVS' Senior Manager of Advocacy and Policy Meredith Blanchard (left) and Staff Research Assistant Anna Madsen (right) presented the NAVS Humane Science Award to this year's winners at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair.

## Meet NAVS' 2022 Humane Science Award Winners

This spring marked the 20th year of NAVS presenting its Humane Science Award at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the world's largest high school science competition. This award recognizes students whose projects demonstrate innovation and scientific advancement through the use of alternatives to animal experimentation. NAVS is the only animal advocacy organization that presents an award at ISEF.

The Humane Science Award is given to students whose projects show scientific excellence and advance science through the use of alternatives to animal experimentation, especially through the replacement of live animals with non-animal methodologies. Projects that include non-invasive observation of animals are also considered for recognition.

After reviewing hundreds of abstracts and interviewing a dozen students both virtually and in person at the ISEF conference in Atlanta, Georgia, the NAVS judges named three students as recipients of our 2022 Humane Science Award.

The third-place award, which came with a cash prize of \$2,500, went to **Maya Butani**, a high school senior from Moorestown, New Jersey. Inspired by the increasing demand for lab grown tissue and organs, Maya decided to research the best way to grow human cells in a 3D framework. There are limitations with using decellularized animal tissues as scaffolding, so Maya turned to the plant kingdom instead.

Specifically, she examined how human stem cells that could be differentiated into other types of cells would react to being grown on two different types of celery scaffold structures. When the stem cells were grown using a porous celery scaffold, the cells began developing as human bone tissue; when the cells were grown using a fibrous celery scaffold, the cells specialized as early muscle tissue. Not only was this plant-powered project cool enough to catch the attention of our judges, but Maya also ended up winning first place among the biochemistry entries. Go, Maya!

For our second-place award (and \$5,000 prize) the judges selected **Arthur Liang**, a high school senior from New York City. Arthur's project focused on using human cells as a model for studying alcohol use disorder. Using stem cells derived from adult human tissue, Arthur grew the specific neurons responsible for the rewarding feelings that lead to addiction. He then treated these neurons with ethanol to better understand how alcohol induces long-term memory and learning impairment. There is currently no reliable treatment for alcohol use disorder, but we hope that human-based research like Arthur's will lead to a better understanding of the disease and its cure.

Finally, as our first-place winner—and recipient of a \$10,000 prize—the judges chose **Saptarshi Mallick**, a high school senior from Tucson, Arizona. Saptarshi created organoid models of a pituitary tumor to study the causes of Cushing's disease. Starting with human stem cells, Saptarshi used the gene editor CRISPR/Cas9 to create the mutations suspected of being involved with the growth of the tumor that causes Cushing's. He then treated the organoids with different drugs and studied the varied hormone levels between models, yielding more accurate results than previous studies that used mouse models.

Saptarshi also grew organoids using cells taken directly from Cushing's patients. By studying the different hormone levels secreted by each of the tumor organoids, he determined that Cushing's is extremely variable from individual to individual, and thus therapies must be tailor made for each person, something that is only possible through personalized human-based drug discovery.

**Congratulations to all of these winners. We can't wait to see what brilliant humane contributions to science they will make as they head off to college.**



# Gallup Poll Shows Promise for Animals

The annual Values and Beliefs survey conducted by Gallup has been tracking the feelings of the American public on many issues for over two decades, including a topic very important to NAVS: how Americans feel about medical testing on animals.

The newest poll results show something very promising for animals—many more Americans feel that medical testing on animals is morally wrong today compared to when the poll was first published in 2001. This year, 43% of Americans felt that medical testing on animals is morally wrong compared to just 26% in 2001.

On the flip side, 52% of Americans now view medical testing on animals as “morally acceptable,” down from 65% in 2001.

The results from 2022 are consistent with poll findings from last year, which showed that 52% of Americans viewed medical testing on animals as “morally acceptable” and 44% viewed it as morally wrong.

MEDICAL TESTING ON ANIMALS



Changes in public perception on animal issues have even been noticed by U.S. governmental agencies, like the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), which recently recognized in its strategic plan framework document that “Public perceptions around animal welfare and wildlife in society are evolving,” noting that more people are interested in animal welfare than ever before—which is very encouraging to hear.

While NAVS is optimistic about the overall trend and shift in public perception that has taken place over the last 20 years, we have noticed that progress appears to be slowing down and even leveling out a bit in recent times. Perhaps this is because of the extraordinary job that those in the animal protection community have made in calling out the cruelty and inefficacy of animal experiments. The “other side” can see what a great case we are making and is trying to push back, while being supported by a multi-billion-dollar animal research industry that has a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

Therefore, it is critical that we remain as committed as ever in achieving victories for animals and to continue to advocate for the animals used in research who are unable to speak for themselves. Let’s work hard together to keep this trendline moving in the right direction and continue to build the momentum to end animal experimentation once and for all!



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## FACES OF SURVIVAL



### ANIMAL SANCTUARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The **NAVS Animal Sanctuary Assistance Program** is a lifeline to animal rescues, shelters and sanctuaries who find themselves in desperate need of emergency financial assistance. Meet some of the latest animals who have overcome tremendous obstacles thanks to your support.

**Voice for Horses Rescue Network** in Toledo, Ohio, recently rescued a group of horses from a severe neglect situation. The horses had been locked in stalls for more than three months with little to no care, in deplorable and unhealthy living conditions. Thanks to your support, NAVS helped Voice for Horses obtain urgent medical care for these horses. Pictured is one of the rescues, **TEDDY**, a 23-year-old Hanoverian.

In 2019, the closure of the Wildlife Waystation sanctuary left hundreds of animals—including more than 40 former research chimpanzees—in need of relocation. NAVS has been working with the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance's "Chimpanzees in Need" initiative, providing more than \$60,000 to sanctuaries taking in the Waystation chimps. Thanks to NAVS donors, we recently issued a grant to **Save the Chimps, Inc.** in Fort Pierce, Florida, which will soon welcome the "**Sunrise Seven**," the final seven chimps from Wildlife Waystation (including **ERNESTA**, pictured).

To learn more about the lifesaving work that is made possible through your support, visit [NAVS.org/sanctuary](https://navs.org/sanctuary).



**TEDDY**



**ERNESTA**

## A New Name to Meet Sanctuaries' Growing Needs

Our Sanctuary Fund has a new name—but not a new purpose—to better describe our work to help rescue animals. To better reflect the scope and purpose of our sanctuary partnership efforts, the NAVS Sanctuary Fund is now the **NAVS Animal Sanctuary Assistance Program**.

Why the shift? Simply put, the new name just makes more sense. A "fund" is passive—it conjures up images of a bank account, sitting dormant, waiting for someone to request a withdrawal.

The **NAVS Animal Sanctuary Assistance Program** is anything but passive. In fact, the urgency is right there in the new name—**ASAP**. With more animals being released from research labs, the need to rehome these animals has never been greater. NAVS actively reaches out to sanctuaries that are receiving former research animals, providing essential funding to aid in the transition and ongoing care of their new residents.

Calling it a "fund" also puts an unnecessary limitation on how much support we can provide to sanctuaries: If it's not in the "fund," it can't be used. The **NAVS Animal Sanctuary Assistance Program** now has no such limitations or restrictions.

If the need is there, NAVS is there—**ASAP**.