

# PETA: Requests Wisconsin Governor and Dept. of Health Services shut down animal labs

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Madison, Wis. — Spiking COVID-19 cases are compromising Wisconsin's reopening plan, and PETA is calling on the governor and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to cut cruel animal experiments statewide—starting with tests on animals whom institutions deemed to be non-essential in response to the pandemic—and protect human health by having staff not come into laboratories to conduct worthless experiments.

[In its letter](#), PETA points out that during the initial COVID-19 shutdown, universities in Wisconsin issued guidance deeming many of their experiments—and the animals used in them—extraneous, which resulted in the apparent euthanasia of numerous animals in their laboratories, including the following:

- Marquette University requested that its experimenters identify “[i]rreplaceable animals,” cease or reduce “[b]reeding,” and cease “[a]ll ordering of new animals.”
- The University of Wisconsin-Madison informed its experimenters that only “essential research” is allowed and urged them to “[s]uspend plans to order and ship animals” and “consider reduction or cessation of non-critical animal breeding, including agricultural animals and USDA-covered species.”

**PETA questions why animals deemed by these universities to be extraneous are being bought, bred, trapped, or experimented on in the first place and notes that staff conducting these experiments are being**

**put at unnecessary risk as a result of working in close proximity to others. In addition, if animal testing resumes and Wisconsin shuts down again, more animals may be euthanized, wasting taxpayer money that could have funded superior, human-relevant studies.**

“This pandemic should be a wake-up call to shift away from experiments on animals and toward a ‘new normal’ of modern, non-animal research methods,” says PETA Vice President Shalin Gala. “PETA is calling on state officials to learn from the past and keep *all* animals from suffering in cruel and wasteful tests.”

More than [90%](#) of results from basic scientific research—much of it involving animal testing—fails to lead to treatments for humans, and [95%](#) of new medications found to be safe and effective in animals fail in human clinical trials.

PETA previously called for an audit of public money, personnel, property, equipment, and space used by UW-Madison for animal tests deemed non-essential, noting that the university received nearly \$456 million in state appropriations in the last fiscal year, some of which may have funded such animal experiments.

PETA—whose motto reads, in part, that “animals are not ours to experiment on”—opposes speciesism, a human-supremacist worldview. For more information, please visit [PETA.org](https://peta.org), [click here](#), or follow the group on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#).