

**Subject:** non-animal testing

**Date:** Thursday, June 7, 2007 6:24 PM

**From:** Maria Bolaños-McClain and Ken McClain

TO: Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM)

FROM: Maria Bolaños & Ken McClain

DATE: June 6, 2007

We are writing to ask that you immediately halt the unnecessary killing of thousands of animals each year used for chemical testing and instead implement non-animal test methods.

Our government has trusted ICCVAM to develop non-animal testing methods. However, ICCVAM has approved only one non-animal test method while its European counterpart has approved dozens of non-animal testing methods which are accepted and used internationally.

We are sure you are aware that the current animal-poisoning tests have not been proven to be relevant to humans. Non-animal test methods, on the other hand, have been proven to be more accurate, sensitive and relevant to public health. It is not acceptable to allow the continued needless torture of innocent animals when there are better testing methods available.

Last year Congress asked your agency to develop a five-year plan to identify areas of high priority. Sadly, your new draft plan does not incorporate the use of non-animal methods which are accepted internationally and does not follow the additional December 2006 recommendations of the animal protection community.

We urge you to end the use of barbaric animal testing methods, and instead adopt internationally validated non-animal testing methods.

We thank you for protecting the health of the citizens and animals of our world.