

According to HSUS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS NEEDED TO PHASE OUT LETHAL ANIMAL TESTS:

After years of

protest from animal activists, the LD50 Test (in which animals are force fed chemicals to estimate the dose needed to kill 50% of them) is slowly being phased out internationally and is being replaced with tests that use fewer animals [or none at all]. A recent workshop held by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), a government agency that researches the health effects of environmental hazards, addressed the feasibility of going one step further and replacing the animal tests completely with in-vitro cell culture tests. Scientists at the NIEHS workshop have agreed to a partial implementation of in vitro testing, to set a "starting dose" for the lethal poisoning tests, which would have the effect of further reducing the number of animals in the tests. The NIEHS is inviting the public to comment on the findings of these scientists and the use of in-vitro cell cultures as a replacement for lethal animal tests.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Submit your comments to the NIEHS by Tuesday, November

13th, asking them to begin efforts to completely replace lethal dose testing with non-animal, in vitro testing methods. Please send your comments to

Dr. William Stokes, Director
NICEATM (MD EC-17), NIEHS

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Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

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or email them in MS Word, plain text, or PDF format to niceatm@niehs.nih.gov (please note that the subject line must read: "Report of the International Workshop on In Vitro Methods for Assessing Acute Systemic Toxicity").

For more info on the NIEHS findings, see

<http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/docs/FR/6649686.htm>

This sounds like a good idea to me and I hope you all follow through with it so animals won't have to be subject to the inhumanity of being poisoned.

Diana