

**From:** Stop AnimalCruelty  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2004 11:20 AM  
**To:** NIEHS ICCVAM  
**Subject:** PLEASE STOP ANIMAL TESTING

Dr. William Stokes, Director  
NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods  
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
P.O. Box 12233, MD EC-17  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes,

It's ironic how we consider ourselves to be the best country in the world - and have very little shame admitting it freely - but that we still use outdated, medieval methods for testing products. You have to be living in a cave to NOT know that all household products should not be anywhere near the eyes. Even my 4-year-old knows that! To actually have alternatives in place, but to stubbornly refuse to use them - or expect to use them, but still require animal ones - is completely and utterly beyond my understanding. We can put humans on the moon, but we still need to torture animals to survive. A shame on this nation, indeed! I travel often and have many friends from other parts of the world. When it comes to the United States' treatment of its FELLOW mammals, we are, 100%, the lowest on the totem pole for industrialized countries.

I would like you to implement the following:

- ICCVAM should follow the example set by European countries that accept the results of these *in vitro* methods, alone or in combination, to classify severely irritating and corrosive chemicals, and should eliminate proposals for "confirmatory" testing on animals.
- ICCVAM's background-review documents should clearly address the limitations of the current animal test for eye irritation, including its subjectivity, reproducibility, and its over- and under-prediction rate. ICCVAM should not presume to "validate" a non-animal method against an animal test that has never been properly validated itself.
- ICCVAM should take the time to learn that these tests are being used safely and effectively by the industry today.
- ICCVAM should stop dragging its heels and setting up obstacles to the acceptance and use of non-animal test methods in the U.S.

I look forward to the day when children say to their parents: "I can't believe that when you and Daddy were young, they used to test on animals."

Thank you very much for your consideration. I know you'll do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen and Mother

*The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for white, or women created for men.*

- Alice Walker