

# US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Research & Development

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# Five Year Plan

Section 249(e) Not later than December 31, 2020, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a plan under which the Secretary will eliminate or reduce the research conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates by not later than five years after the date of the enactment of this Act. *Public Law 116-94, page 274*

# Evolution of the Five Year Plan

Requirement	FY2018 Section 254, PL 115-141	FY2019 Section 247, PL 115-244	FY2020 Section 249, PL 116-94	FY2021 Section 247, PL 116-260
Applies to canine studies	X	X	X	X
Applies to feline and non-human primate studies			X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Scientific objectives can only be met by research with that species</li> <li>▪Study has been directly approved by SecVA</li> <li>▪Study is consistent with VA policy document AR2017-001</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X
Scientific objectives are directly related to an illness or injury that is combat-related			X	X
After Secretarial approval and at least 30 days before the study starts, Congress must be notified			X	X
Report on status of sensitive species studies	Annual	Annual	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual
Plan must be submitted by end of year to reduce or eliminate sensitive species research within 5 years of passage of P.L. 116-94			X	X

# Approaches to Alternative Methods

An organotypic microfluidic model of the tumor microenvironment for preclinical assessment of novel therapies against ovarian cancer.

Engineered 3D microfluidic tubular device as multimodal, functional tissue model.

Validation of Patient-Specific, iPSC-based In Vitro Liver System.

In vitro models of toxoplasmosis for preclinical drug development.

Developing and Validating Alternatives to the Use of Canines, Feline and Non-Human Primates in VA Research (RFA).

Developing and Validating Alternatives to the Use of Animals in Research (Multispecies) (RFA)

# Programmatic Approaches to Alternative Methods

Expanded opportunities to utilize Alternative Methods through carefully constructed Memorandums of Understanding with Affiliates.

Significantly expanded monetary incentives to develop Alternative Methods for current multi-species animal models.

Developed review criteria to include the rationale for the model selection and validation.

Review and supplement education programs centered on Alternative Methods.

Effectiveness of strategies will be evaluated based on the numbers of applications funded in each area and the success of each proposal in generating and validating an alternative.

Retained the services of an independent research organization to analyze and evaluate the progress in decreasing animal use as provided by Law. Incorporates analysis of actively promoting Alternative Methods.

# • QUESTIONS?

## [VA Animal Research Program](#)

[Veteran Finds Hope for Her Dog and Others in VA-Funded Study of Novel Cancer Treatment - University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine](#)