

**Testimony from Congressman Greg Steube**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce Member Day Hearing**  
**September 19, 2023**

Thank you, Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member Pallone and Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony regarding a critical effort to reduce wasteful government spending by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on unnecessary research that harms dogs.

In particular, I would like to address the importance of my bipartisan Protecting Dogs Subjected to Experiments Act (H.R. 574), which has been referred to your Subcommittee on Health.<sup>1</sup>

In recent years, federal agencies including the Food and Drug Administration,<sup>2</sup> the Environmental Protection Agency,<sup>3</sup> and the Department of Veterans Affairs<sup>4</sup> have launched efforts to reduce and eliminate research on dogs.

In contrast, the NIH has continued to allocate taxpayer dollars towards inhumane and scientifically questionable experiments on canines and made no apparent efforts to curb the widely-opposed practice.

The NIH spends tens of millions of dollars annually for wasteful and inhumane dog experimentation. These experiments include injecting dogs with cocaine<sup>5</sup>, cutting out their vocal cords to prevent them from barking in the lab<sup>6</sup>, covering beagle puppies with ticks,<sup>7</sup> breeding hundreds of dogs to suffer from bleeding disorders<sup>8</sup>, and infesting abandoned hounds with biting insects.<sup>9</sup> The NIH's in-house lab is currently performing septic shock tests in which dozens of puppies' throats are cut open and infectious bacteria are forced directly into the dogs' lungs to cause pneumonia. Experimenters then bleed out the dogs, give them transfusions, and wait to see how long the dogs can survive. Any dog that survives longer than 96 hours is then killed.<sup>10</sup>

We don't need to spend tax dollars on cruel dog experiments to advance science.

Last year, following an investigation by the government watchdog White Coat Waste Project and scrutiny from Congress, Dr. Fauci canceled a misguided plan that would have wasted nearly \$2 million on a series of experiments on dogs to test a seasonal allergy drug.<sup>11</sup> After commissioning

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/574/cosponsors?s=1&r=98>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-scott-gottlieb-md-efforts-reduce-animal-testing-through-study-aimed>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/research/administrator-memo-prioritizing-efforts-reduce-animal-testing-september-10-2019>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.research.va.gov/programs/animal\\_research/VA-5-year-plan-for-Sensitive-Species-reduction-elimination.docx](https://www.research.va.gov/programs/animal_research/VA-5-year-plan-for-Sensitive-Species-reduction-elimination.docx)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/feb/2/nih-experiment-injected-beagle-puppies-cocaine-sea/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://dailycaller.com/2021/10/05/antony-fauci-niaid-white-coat-waste-animal-experiment-abuse/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/10/29/faucis-nih-of-ticks-sucking-on-puppies-alive/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/nih-experimented-on-diseased-beagles>

<sup>9</sup> <https://thefederalist.com/2023/02/16/our-tax-dollars-are-going-toward-gruesome-dog-abuse-again/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2022/02/03/wcw-has-the-proof-nih-buys-puppies-from-envigo-puppy-mill-kills-them/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://freebeacon.com/latest-news/nih-nixes-painful-puppy-experiments-after-free-beacon-report/>

the dog tests, Dr. Fauci ultimately acknowledged to Congress that the use of dogs, as proposed by his own team, was entirely unnecessary and rodents could be used instead. This alarming situation underscores the need for reform.

As acknowledged by Dr. Fauci, alternatives to dog testing are available, and other agencies are aggressively pursuing them.

This is what taxpayers want, too. A 2022 poll found that a staggering 73% of American voters want to see funding cut for NIH's dog experiments.

In light of these critical issues, I urge the Committee to support the Protecting Dogs Subjected to Experiments Act. This legislation will not only save countless dogs from unnecessary suffering but also redirect taxpayer dollars towards more ethical and cost-effective medical research.

Thank you again for allowing me to share my thoughts. It is invaluable to have an opportunity to communicate these priorities from our constituents. I appreciate your consideration of this important issue as the Committee continues to work to advance its priorities in the upcoming months.

---