



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

OFFICE OF RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Beginning the Process to Retire Rabbits from EPA's Laboratories

FROM: Alexandra Dapolito Dunn
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Office of Research and Development (ORD)

TO: Andrew R. Wheeler
Administrator (1101A)

This memorandum documents your recent direction to the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) and the Office of Research and Development (ORD) to begin the process for retiring the rabbits currently housed at the Research Triangle Park laboratories, in furtherance of the objectives outlined in your September 10, 2019 directive to prioritize efforts to reduce animal testing. Over the past several years, EPA's experimentation with laboratory rabbits has declined. As new approach methods for chemical testing are developed, validated, and implemented, we hope that the use of rabbits to support chemical testing can decrease even further.

Our laboratories abide by all statutory obligations, U.S. Government policies, and applicable laboratory certification standards for the care of research animals. The potential retirement of research animals must be considered in light of these requirements. In addition, we appreciate that there are many complexities associated with the potential retirement of laboratory animals.

OCSPP and ORD will begin the process to have our staff examine what options exist for retiring these animals from EPA laboratories. We are aware that other federal agencies have worked with nonprofit institutions to care for animals after their use in laboratories. A first step in exploring potential options would likely be to consult with other parts of the federal government that have accomplished similar animal retirement efforts.