



Annual Report

April 1st 2024 - March 31st 2025

nzavs.org.nz



About NZAVS

NZAVS is an inclusive organisation committed to ending animal experimentation without contributing to the further marginalisation of any group, including tangata whenua, LGBTQIA+ and others. We honour and respect Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

◆ Te kaupapa

He Aotearoa e kawe whakamua ana i te pūtaiao, kāore e whara, e whakamātau rānei i ngā kararehe.

◆ Vision

An Aotearoa, New Zealand, that advances science without harming and experimenting on animals.

◆ Te koromakinga

Kia mutu te whakamātau kararehe me te whakamahinga kino o ngā kararehe mō te pūtaiao i Aotearoa.

◆ Mission

To end animal experimentation and the harmful use of animals for science in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

◆ Uara

Ngākau Pono, Ngā Tikanga, Whakapono ki ngā taunakitanga, Ngāwari ki te katoa, Whakaute ki te Māori, Kaupapa Rangimārie, Vegan, Taiao-whaihua, Kāore he rōpū tōrangapū.

◆ Values

Integrity, Ethics, Evidence based, Inclusivity, Respect for Māori, Nonviolent Kaupapa, Vegan, Eco-Friendly, Non- Partisan.

◆ Arahi Nga Tikana

He ngākau, he hinengaro ō ngā kararehe – ehara rātou i te rawa hokohoko.

Kāore e taea e te whakamātau kararehe te matapae tika i ngā putanga mō te tangata.

Mā ngā tikanga kore-kararehe, e hāngai ana ki te tangata, ka kawe whakamua te pūtaiao.

◆ Guiding Principles

Animals are sentient beings, not commodities.

Animal experimentation cannot reliably predict human outcomes. Animal-free and human-relevant methods will advance scientific progress.



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Sam La Hood
BOARD CHAIR



Chair's Report

Tēnā koutou,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present my report as the Chair of NZAVS for 2025. This has been a year of both renewal and consolidation for our organisation – a year where we've embraced change, strengthened our foundations, and continued to advance our mission to end animal experimentation in Aotearoa.

This past year, the Board has worked closely with staff to ensure stability and momentum. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding mahi of Brooke Mooney (Supporter Engagement Officer) and Marik Kardel (Research Officer), who stepped up during this period and played a crucial role in keeping NZAVS moving forward. Their commitment ensured our important mission stayed at the forefront through a challenging time of change. The passion and drive that our staff have for the mission of NZAVS is one of our strongest assets - thank you both for the real impact that you make for animals.

A major highlight this year has been the appointment of our new Executive Officer, Jade Pengelly. Jade brings with her over a decade of combined experience in veterinary management, team leadership, and management consulting, and she has already proven herself to be a superb addition to NZAVS. Her fresh perspective, strong leadership, and deep alignment with our kaupapa will help guide NZAVS into its next chapter with confidence and vision. We thank you, Jade, for your tireless commitment that you have already shown for both good practice and meaningful outcomes at NZAVS.





From a governance perspective, 2025 has been a year of strengthening our structures and processes. The Board has:

- Completed a full constitution revamp to ensure compliance with the new Incorporated Societies Act and Charities Act, resulting in a framework that positions NZAVS to succeed in its mission well into the future.
- Improved reporting at all levels – from staff-to-Board updates through to Board strategy and management reporting – to strengthen transparency and governance.
- Implemented new financial and risk management policies, enabling us to operate with greater clarity and accountability while safeguarding the sustainability of the organisation.
- Continued to nurture a supportive and collaborative Board environment, which we see as a cornerstone of NZAVS' ability to remain both flexible and innovative.

We also prioritised connection across the whole organisation this year, holding two in-person hui where Board and staff could come together to strengthen relationships, engage in authentic dialogue, and ensure our governance is closely connected to the mahi on the ground.

These hui have been invaluable in embedding our shared vision and supporting our ongoing strategic planning.

Looking ahead, the Board remains committed to providing strong, transparent, and values-driven governance that supports NZAVS in achieving its ambitious goals. We are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead under Jade's leadership and with the dedication of our talented staff, passionate Board, and committed supporters.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our members, supporters, staff, and fellow Board members. The progress we've made this year is only possible because of the collective energy, generosity, and belief you bring to this movement. Together, we are building a future where animals are free from exploitation and suffering in the name of science.

Ngā mihi nui,

Sam La Hood

SAM LA HOOD
BOARD CHAIR



Jade Pengelly
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Executive Officer's Report

Tēnā koutou,

I am so thrilled to be writing my first foreword for the NZAVS Annual Report. Since my appointment as executive officer in March, I have been in awe of the loyal supporters and members of NZAVS, and how together we are all so passionate in our mission of ending harmful animal experimentation in Aotearoa. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so warmly into this role – my colleagues, Brooke & Marik, the Board, and of course you, our supporters. After more than ten years working in the veterinary industry, I feel so grateful to be able to continue helping animals through a different, yet equally meaningful path.

This past year has marked a big transition for NZAVS as we said goodbye to Tara Jackson, who was with the organisation for ten incredible years. Tara is a passionate and dedicated advocate for animals, and achieved so much in her time at NZAVS. Thank you, Tara, for all that you have done for our organisation. I am excited to carry on your legacy and continue guiding NZAVS towards achieving our mission.

In 2024, NZAVS continued to shine a light on issues often left in the dark, from the suffering caused by live export, to the hidden link between agriculture and animal experimentation. Our Cruelty-Free Guide reached more people than ever, helping Kiwis make choices that align with their values. And we spoke on the national stage, submitting on the Gene Technology Bill and standing up for transparency, integrity, and compassion in science.

To everyone who supports this mission, I want to thank you. Your belief in a better future for animals fuels everything we do at NZAVS. As we look ahead to 2025/2026, I feel immense hope that we are achieving our mission. Together, we are laying the foundation for a kinder, more ethical New Zealand, where harmful animal experimentation no longer exists.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jade Pengelly
JADE PENGELLY

EXECUTIVE OFFICER



A Brighter Future

In 2024, NZAVS launched the Bright Future Report - a first-of-its-kind roadmap designed to help New Zealand universities transition away from the harmful use of animals in research and teaching.

For years, universities & institutions in Aotearoa have relied on animal experiments as part of research and teaching. But as global scientific standards evolve, it's clear: animal-free science is not only possible - *it is the future.*

The release of the Bright Future Report was a significant milestone for both NZAVS and for the scientific & medical community in New Zealand's. For the first time, a comprehensive, solution-focused resource has been placed directly in the hands of decision-makers at our universities & research institutions.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with students, researchers, and members of the public alike recognising the importance of modernising our scientific approach.

What we hope for the future

At NZAVS our vision for the future is clear: a world where scientific progress thrives without harming animals.

Breakthrough technologies are already making this vision possible. These exciting technologies don't just spare animals; they also offer more reliable, human-relevant results. They allow researchers to better understand human diseases, develop safer medicines, and make faster scientific discoveries.

We believe that with the right resources, guidance, and public support, New Zealand can be at the forefront of this scientific revolution.

Bright Future Highlights



ORGAN ON A CHIP

Organ-on-a-chip (OoC) is an advanced cell culture technology that mimics organ-level physiology and the structure & function of human organs through tissue interfaces and fluid flows. These chips can replicate how drugs or diseases affect the body, providing more accurate results than animal testing ever could. Key benefits include using human cells, live imaging, and non-invasive sampling, leading to improved result quality and reduced costs without animal cruelty.

IN SILICO TESTING

Advanced Computer Modelling and AI are now able to predict how new medicines will interact with the human body. These models can be manually created and refined by researchers or automatically generated by artificial intelligence knowledge-based machine learning. Since there is no usage of live animals, tests can be replicated, refined, and tweaked as often as necessary. This dramatically reduces the need for animal tests and speeds up the development of life-saving treatments.

REALISTIC MODELS

Researchers can now grow realistic models of human cell & tissue models in the lab. These models are revolutionising how we study diseases like cancer, heart disease, and neurological disorders. Human models also allow researchers to study new treatments, such as skin healing after burns. All of this can be done without harming a single animal.

A Global Movement Towards Animal- Free Science

Countries like the Netherlands, the United States, and members of the European Union are investing heavily in replacing animal experiments with innovative, humane methods. We believe New Zealand must not be left behind.

With the tools, knowledge, and global momentum now available, New Zealand universities & research institutes have a unique opportunity to lead the way in ethical, world-class science. The Bright Futures Report gives them a roadmap to:

- Transition away from animal use in research and teaching
- Embrace cutting-edge technologies
- Position New Zealand as a global leader in compassionate, human-relevant science

The future of science is bright and **animal-free**. NZAVS will continuously commit to ensuring New Zealand is part of that future.

Out of the Labs

Our Out of the Labs campaign continues to raise awareness of the hidden reality faced by animals used in research, testing, and teaching in Aotearoa. Beyond raising public awareness, we work to create practical pathways for animals to have a life beyond the laboratory.



In 2024, NZAVS launched a dedicated program to rehome rats bred or used for science at the University of Auckland. This initiative gives these animals the opportunity to live full lives in loving homes, an option not otherwise available. This program is the first of its kind in New Zealand and was made possible thanks to the generous support of LUSH Cosmetics & Petstock NZ, alongside our dedicated donors and supporters.

The University of Auckland remains the only institution in the country regularly willing to rehome animals to NZAVS. Without this collaboration, these animals would have been euthanised.



Looking Ahead

While this program marks important progress, work remains ahead.

NZAVS will continue advocating for:

- ✓ Expanded rehoming opportunities nationwide
- ✓ Transparent rehoming policies at all research institutions
- ✓ A future where animals are no longer used in harmful ways for science



Animals Adopted



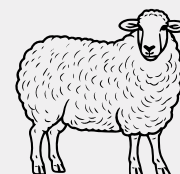
Rats: 228



Rabbits: 10



Mice: 108



Sheep: 7



Birds: 16

Protecting the Live Export Ban



In April 2023, New Zealand became the first country to ban live export of cattle, sheep, goats, and deer by sea, ending a cruel trade that subjected animals to long, stressful journeys and substandard conditions.

In 2024 the current government announced their intention to overturn this ban, despite overwhelming public opposition and mounting expert concerns. In 2024, NZAVS supported nationwide #ProtectTheBan protests marking the anniversary of the ban and highlighting the connection between live export & animal research.

The link between live export & animal experimentation

Live export subjects animals to some of the most extreme conditions imaginable, including heat stress, overcrowding, motion trauma, and starvation. These welfare concerns have been well-documented for years by veterinarians and international experts.

Despite this, experiments are still being carried out on animals to study the live export process, often funded by the animal agriculture industry, with many results withheld from the public.

NZAVS revealed in 2024 during the protests that animals have been subjected to distressing experiments designed to mimic the stresses of live export. These included testing various stocking densities, limiting access to food and water, and exposing animals to movement platforms that simulate ship motion. Some experiments involved inserting measuring devices into the animals' stomachs, while others ended in dissection. The companies involved in live export from New Zealand are largely based in Australia, where these studies were conducted.

These experiments fail to replicate the full trauma of real live export voyages and, in doing so, subject animals to additional suffering in the name of research. Live export is already recognised by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation as the most “stressful” and “injurious” stage for animals in agriculture, yet animals are still being used in laboratory settings to study its impacts.

At NZAVS we continue to call for an end to both live export, and the unnecessary animal experimentation tied to this industry.



Cruelty Free Guide

NZAVS's Cruelty-Free Guide is Aotearoa's only "No Compromise, No Cruelty" certification, helping Kiwis shop with confidence and compassion. Featuring brands that meet the highest ethical standards, the Guide ensures shoppers can avoid products tied to animal testing.

By choosing products from the Cruelty-Free Guide, consumers can be certain they are supporting ethical, forward-thinking businesses, reducing demand for animal testing globally, and sending a clear message to companies that animal suffering is unacceptable.

The Guide continues to grow each year, offering more verified options in cosmetics, skincare, body care, and household goods, all readily available in New Zealand.

What Makes Our Guide Unique?

- No animal testing of products or ingredients
- No animal-testing parent companies
- There are no sales in markets that require animal testing, such as mainland China (except through exempt e-commerce channels)
- All products listed in our guide are available for purchase in New Zealand
- We are committed to ongoing monitoring of all products. Brands that fail to maintain standards are removed

Our Next Steps

- Expand the Cruelty-Free Guide to include more brands and product categories making compassionate shopping easier and more accessible for all New Zealanders.
- Strengthen our verification process to ensure ongoing integrity, transparency, and accountability for every brand listed.
- Support NZ-based brands in navigating cruelty-free certification



Animals Used in Science 2023

Each year, hundreds of thousands of animals in Aotearoa are used in research, testing, and teaching, most of whom are never seen by the public. At NZAVS we carefully analyse these figures to raise awareness and advocate for their replacement in all necessary areas.

2023 Data

The most recent data available from 2023 told us that 316,568 animals were used during the year- a decrease of 75,776 from 2022. However, the rolling 3-year average has sadly increased, highlighting the need for stronger action to reverse this trend.

Key Figures

Total animals used: 316,568

Animals that died or were euthanised: 126,787 (40% of those used)

During or after manipulations: 81,443

Killed for tissues: 45,344

Animals bred but not used and killed anyway: 110,565

How Animals Were Used

Animal husbandry research: 112,022

Environmental management: 50,864

Veterinary research: 39,792

Teaching: 39,412

Basic biological research: 36,142

Medical research: 12,914

Testing: 9,745

Species conservation: 5,794

Other (including biological agent production, alternatives, etc.): 13,583

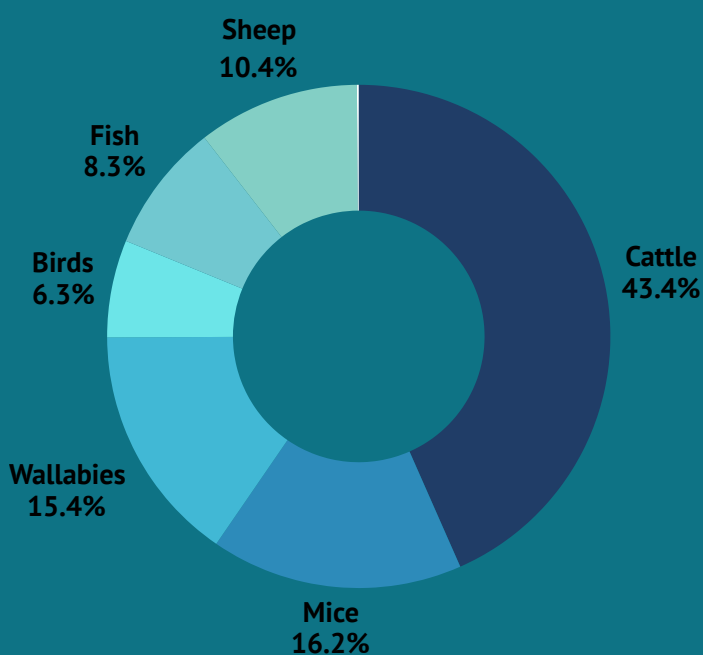
Animals Used in Science 2023



While the total number of animals used has decreased in 2023 compared to the previous year, the significant number of deaths, the increase in the 3-year average, and the continued use of large numbers of animals for husbandry and environmental management highlight that meaningful progress is still urgently needed in the sector.

NZAVS remains committed to:

- Reducing animal use in all sectors
- Promoting alternatives and non-animal methods that are scientifically and ethically superior
- Ensuring full transparency and accountability in how animals are treated



Species used

The most commonly used species in 2023 were:

- Cattle: 127,167
- Mice: 47,449
- Wallabies: 45,011
- Birds: 18,336
- Fish: 24,310
- Sheep: 30,461
- Other: 346

Notably, 45,357 animals were reported in the 2023 statistics under “Other,” with wallabies making up the majority. Wallabies were primarily used for environmental management and basic research.

Gene Technology Submission

In February 2025, NZAVS submitted a comprehensive response to the Health Select Committee opposing the proposed Gene Technology Bill. This bill, if passed, would significantly alter how genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are regulated in Aotearoa. Our concerns centre around the bill's potential to endanger the environment, reduce transparency, weaken animal welfare protections, and disregard Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



Why NZAVS Opposes the Bill

The Gene Technology Bill threatens New Zealand's internationally respected GMO-free status and removes key safeguards that currently protect people, animals, and the environment. While scientific advances in gene manipulation have progressed, they remain far from complete. The bill assumes a level of certainty and control over gene technologies that does not yet exist.

Key reasons for our opposition

01.

Weakened animal protections: The bill fails to adequately consider animal welfare, particularly in laboratory settings. It risks increasing the use of animals in harmful experiments by deregulating oversight.

02.

Centralised power: A single regulator appointed by the Minister would be granted sweeping powers to approve GMO activities, with little regard for independent oversight or advisory committee input.

03.

Loss of local decision-making: Regional councils would be stripped of their ability to restrict or ban GMO releases, removing a vital layer of community-level protection and democratic control.

04.

Inadequate recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi: The bill marginalises Māori voices by only requiring regulators to "have regard" to the Māori Advisory Committee in limited circumstances. It fails to uphold kaitiakitanga and the principles of partnership, protection and participation.

05.

Scientific risks: The bill allows for exemptions and non-notifiable GMO activities, sidestepping thorough risk assessments. This undermines international agreements like the Cartagena Protocol and increases the chance of unintended consequences.

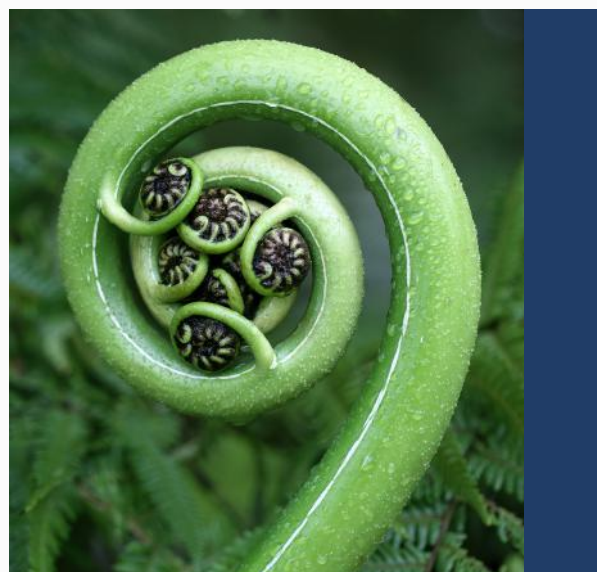
06.

Commercial over public interest: The development of the bill was heavily influenced by industry voices, with minimal consultation from animal welfare or environmental organisations.

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THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

- The Bill received its first reading on 17 December 2024 and was sent to the Health Select Committee, with submissions closing 17 February 2025
- NZAVS's submission formed part of over 1,700 responses, including oral presentations before the Committee in March and April 2025



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NZAVS SUBMISSION SUMMARY

NZAVS strongly opposed the proposed Gene Technology Bill. We believe the bill undermines the precautionary approach essential for protecting New Zealand's unique flora and fauna, jeopardises our GMO-free status, neglects animal welfare and ethical considerations, and removes the right of regional councils to regulate GMO releases.

The Technical and Māori Advisory Committee are granted no meaningful decision-making power, and the Māori Advisory Committee, in particular, is restricted to specific situations. While scientific understanding of gene manipulation has advanced over the past two decades, it remains incomplete, particularly concerning its possibilities and unintended effects.

Safeguarding What Matters

As an island nation with unique biodiversity and a growing reputation for ethical science, New Zealand must act cautiously. We believe at NZAVS that gene technologies should only be used under strict containment and after comprehensive, transparent risk assessments.

We urge the government to:

- Maintain robust regulatory oversight of all gene technologies.
- Uphold regional and public rights to oppose GMO use.
- Embed strong protections for animals in all related legislation.
- Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi through genuine and empowered Māori involvement.
- Prioritise environmental and public safety over commercial gain.

Treasurer's Report

Over the last two years, NZAVS has made significant progress in improving governance and financial systems.

The charity relies on a mix of donors, grants and sponsorship in order to fund the core mission of ending animal experimentation in Aotearoa. Over time NZAVS has built up reserves which provide income for operations and also fund special projects.

The board has moved to both protect these reserves and ensure that they are ethically invested. In the last financial year NZAVS has sold a rental property which fell short of the ethical criteria and also received a generous legacy from the W. E Bradshaw Estate. These two events have greatly improved the charity's financial performance and grown reserves by over 30%.

At the same time, NZAVS operations have been reshaped allowing us to better manage costs and find the best balance of staffing. NZAVS is a Living Wage Employer.

The board members have contributed over 600 unpaid hours to NZAVS over the last 18 months and take their obligations under the Charities Act seriously. A large part of the board's work in the last year was managing the charities operations while we undertook a rigorous recruitment program.

This financial year marks a turning point for NZAVS. Having posted surpluses two years running, we are now able to make the Charity a far more effective force and are about to launch a significant program bought to us by Jade, our new Executive Officer.

While we are forecasting a deficit for the financial year ending March 2026, this is not unexpected given the present economic environment and changes at NZAVS. Budgeting is already in place to quickly move back to the more positive outcomes of previous years with a series of exciting initiatives which we'll be sharing with you soon.

The final accounts for the last financial year are available on request and all accounts and returns are filed with the Charities Commission and can be found [here](#).

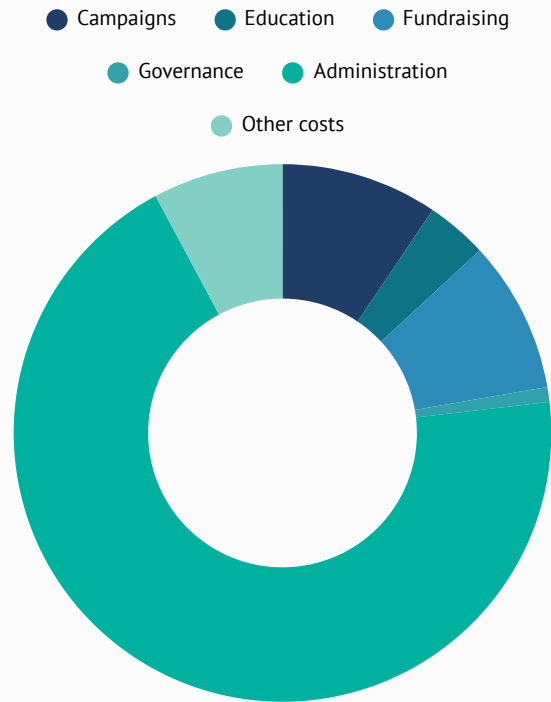
Ngā mihi nui,


JOHN RANSLEY

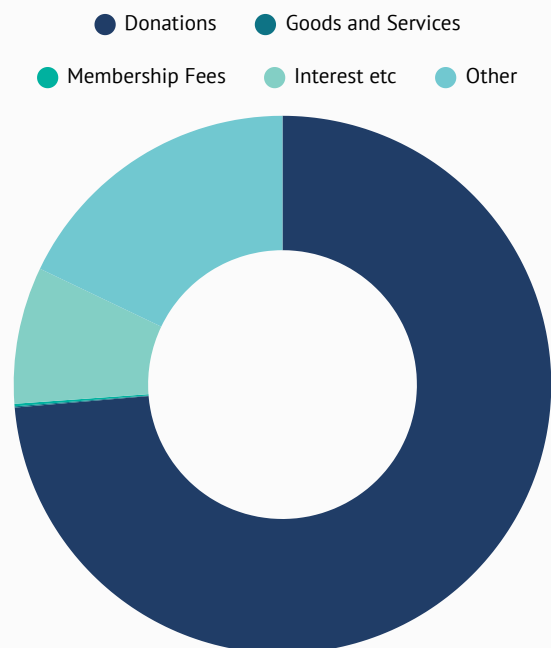
TREASURER

2024-2025 Financials

EXPENSES	2024/2025
Ending Animal Experimentation Campaigns	\$28,830.50
Education & Public Awareness	\$11,254.37
Fundraising	\$27,955.50
Governance	\$2,731.25
Wages/Admin Costs	\$210,542.84
Other costs	\$23,922.98
Total	\$305,302.44



INCOME	2024/2025
Donations	\$479,110.25
Goods and Services Revenue	\$483.06
Membership Fees	\$978.29
Interest, Dividends and Investments	\$53,551.48
Other	\$116,522.19
Total	\$650,645.27



Our People



Jade Pengelly - Executive Officer (she/her)



Brooke Mooney - Supporter Engagement Officer (she/her)



Marik Kardel - Research Officer (they/them)

Board Members



Sam La Hood
(she/her)



Marlene Youl
(she/her)



John Ransley
(he/him)



Marielle Haringa
(she/her)



Emily Major
(she/her)



nzavs
Ending Animal Experimentation

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