



**Annual  
Report**

April 1st, 2019 – March 31st, 2020

[nzavs.org.nz](http://nzavs.org.nz)

 @NZAVS

 @endinganimaltestingnz



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## The Year, Assessed by Deirdre Sims, Chair of the NZAVS Board

It has been exciting to see the development of NZAVS over the last year as the society has built momentum with its campaigns and fundraising and has made strategic moves around a brand refresh that is fit for the times. The positive growth of the society over the last year is the result of Tara's leadership, passion, dedication, and vision, alongside the Society's hardworking and highly skilled staff, and a governance board working constructively together to support the best outcomes for the society.

I am grateful that there is an organisation in Aotearoa solely dedicated to shining the spotlight on the suffering of animals used in science and investigating what is happening to them behind closed doors.

Late in 2019, NZAVS revealed that ten unwanted dogs sourced from a Christchurch pound were subjected to

six consecutive days of experimental poisoning before being killed. As a dog owner, I was outraged at this treatment of a species so near and dear to my heart.

I also, however, felt proud that NZAVS had brought this hidden suffering to light. Tara and her staff put countless hours into uncovering what animals are subject to in the name of science and of the toll it takes deal with this kind of subject matter, day in and day out.

Something else I love about the society is that we also provide a vision of a compassionate world and offer tangible steps people can take towards a kinder society. Some of the Society's stand-out work in this space involves education for tamariki and rangatahi, most notably through our children's book *The SixFoot Rats* (by Rebecca Gibbs) and our Kind Education programme.



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I am confident that we will continue to go from strength to strength...



Looking to the year ahead, I'm excited about watching the development of our recently rebranded and revamped Cruelty Free NZ Magazine, which I believe is an invaluable way to reach people with the work of the Society. I am confident that we will continue to go from strength to strength towards achieving our ultimate goal of ending animal experimentation in Aotearoa.

Ngā mihi nui,

*Deirdre Sims*

Deirdre Sims  
Chairperson  
The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection  
Society

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Without NZAVS fighting for lab Animals to abolish animal experiments, there would be no accountability from companies that continue to use animals in barbaric experiments that are outdated and a disgrace to humanity. NZAVS come from a place of empathy and therefore their passion and dedication will always prevail. They fight for justice and transparency to give animals a voice. I, and I know many others that support their cause, have so much respect for what they do to abolish these abhorrent practises.

– Linda Svensson  
**Animal Defenders Squad**



## The Progress We Have Made by Tara Jackson, NZAVS Executive Director

Reflecting on the year passed, I feel an overwhelming sense of pride and hope.

We made huge progress from the ground level up and we have improved in many areas to become more professional and better equipped to make effective change for animals.

One of the most notable area of success is how key industry members, including decision-makers, are starting to view NZAVS and the positive changes and opportunities that come from this. Much of this comes down to our core values – the two most relevant here are that we are evidence-based and non-violent in our approach. In following these values, we are continuously becoming more and more credible to the people who once dismissed us entirely and left us out of key discussions and decision-making. I was a guest lecturer

at universities to vet students and law students. Representing NZAVS, I also gave a presentation to the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee on the use of animals in education. I was invited to be on a panel about the use of the Forced Swim Test by ANZCAART. These are just a few of the many examples where researchers, decision-makers and other industry members have wanted to hear from us – NZAVS, NZ's primary organisation defending animals used in science.

The results that we have seen from taking this more open and collaborative approach are further evidence that we are heading in the right direction - we are a credible voice for animals, a true force to be reckoned with.

Animals have been rehomed, their use has been replaced in some instances,



## We made huge progress from the ground level up...

more animals are included in the official monitoring process, institutes have shown a desire to replace the use of animals more, and we have contributed significantly to the removal of the social license for the cruel and invalid Forced Swim Test – an animal test that researchers and other industry members are turning their back on now.

I know a lot of people see me as the face of NZAVS and, yes, I will openly admit that this is my life, my passion, and what I dedicate most of my energy and time on, but it is not just me alone. NZAVS has a Board full of strong and talented wahine. Our Funding and Engagement Manager, Annelies, is incredible and her drive to help animals is unstoppable. Our Campaign Manager, Shanti, has a great, strategic mind and helps steer campaigns in the most effective direc-

tion. Our new Cruelty Free NZ Editor, Georgette, has a special gift for building relationships and connecting with people, and our intern, Brooke, has a dedication beyond belief. Our many volunteers and thousands of supporters also contribute in countless ways. It is all of us as a collective that make up NZAVS and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Ngā mihi mahana,



Tara Jackson  
Executive Director  
The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection  
Society



## Supporters are our Backbone

by Annelies Basten, NZAVS Funding & Engagement Manager

### Thank you for so fiercely defending animals used in science with us.

Over the last year, we have felt the amazing support that you have offered to end animal experimentation. Your generosity and support, online and offline, has meant NZAVS is now in an amazing position to create meaningful changes for animals used in science in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

You have reacted strongly to the gruesome animal experiments we know are happening here in New Zealand, such as the secondary poisoning trials of pound dogs, the cows with windows in their sides, and the rabbits who got toxic substances rubbed straight into their eyes. Thanks to your support, we now have the resources to continue to

expose a cruel and flawed industry and I am confident that together we will be able to shift the paradigm to a kinder, more viable way of doing research.

We are working **against** a challenging industry stuck in the dark ages, but with your backing and generosity, I am sure we will be able to take down the pillars that are keeping animal experimentation alive today.

Many of you have joined the regular giving programme The Animal Defenders Squad, a vital initiative that helps us plan and budget vital campaigns for animals a long way ahead. Thank you so much for putting your trust and confidence in NZAVS, your help is invaluable to our growth.





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**Thank you for putting your trust and confidence in NZAVS, your help is invaluable to our growth.**

We also launched our legacy programme this year, 'Animals in Science Custodians', and we are delighted to see so many of you committing to leaving a gift in your will so that the injustices you are fighting with us today will continue to be fought long after you have gone. Thank you so much for your compassion.

In closing, the feeling that I am getting through being in touch with so many of you is that you are ready to see an end to animal experimentation. You are ready to see animal experimenters being held accountable for their actions. I am so proud to be working with you, and for you, to make this happen with your backing and support.

We have a long way to go, but with your continued support we truly are a force to be reckoned with. Thank you so much for being part of a strong and powerful movement that is NZAVS.

**Until all animals are free from suffering in the name of science.**

Annelies Basten

Annelies Basten  
Funding & Engagement Manager  
The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society



## The Forced Swim Test

Our campaign to end the use of the Forced Swim Test made a lot of great progress over the year!

The Forced Swim Test is a cruel and invalid animal test that involves rats or mice being placed into inescapable beakers filled with water. They are forced to swim as a misguided attempt to mimic depression or despair in humans.

For part of the year, SAFE collaborated with us on this issue. We are big fans of working together with other groups to have the biggest impact possible for animals.

25,000  
SIGNATURE  
PETITION  
PRESENTED







Throughout the year we continued encouraging key stakeholders to take action against the use of this test and we organised multiple stunts, protests and actions to raise further awareness. This, in turn, put more pressure on the Government and institutes using this test. We found high-profile Kiwis who supported the campaign and helped spread our message further. We also worked with international allies to ensure that we were a powerful part of the global campaign against this test and more!

**Noteworthy moments include:**

- Our petition calling on the Government to ban the use of the test received over 25,000 signatures on it. The support for this was wide - we even had copies of our petition in all Body Shop stores across the country!



**500**  
EXPERTS  
SUPPORT PETITION  
AGAINST THE  
FORCED SWIM TEST

- We wrote a submission on our petition for Parliament. We were then invited to present on it at Parliament to the Economic Development, Science, and Innovation Committee.
  - We received overwhelming support from the student body at Victoria University with student clubs, representing over 1500 students, signing a letter to the Victoria University Vice-Chancellor. The Victoria University of Wellington Student Association President, Tamatha Paul, also added her voice and support to the campaign by Victoria University of Wellington Animal Ethics Committee calling for the Uni to end the use of the Forced Swim Test.
  - Over 500 people (including psychologists, researchers, mental health workers, counsellors, doctors, nurses, veterinarians, and vet nurses) provided a personal statement to support the petition to ban the Forced Swim Test in NZ.
- Towards the end of the year, the Economic Development, Science, and Innovation Committee came out with their final decision - they concluded that the test is largely useless for science but did not want to ban it. Their reasoning was that the test is going to die out anyway. In another decade or so, they suspect no one will even be using the test anymore.





**We are talking with key stakeholders and members of the industry to encourage systemic changes.**

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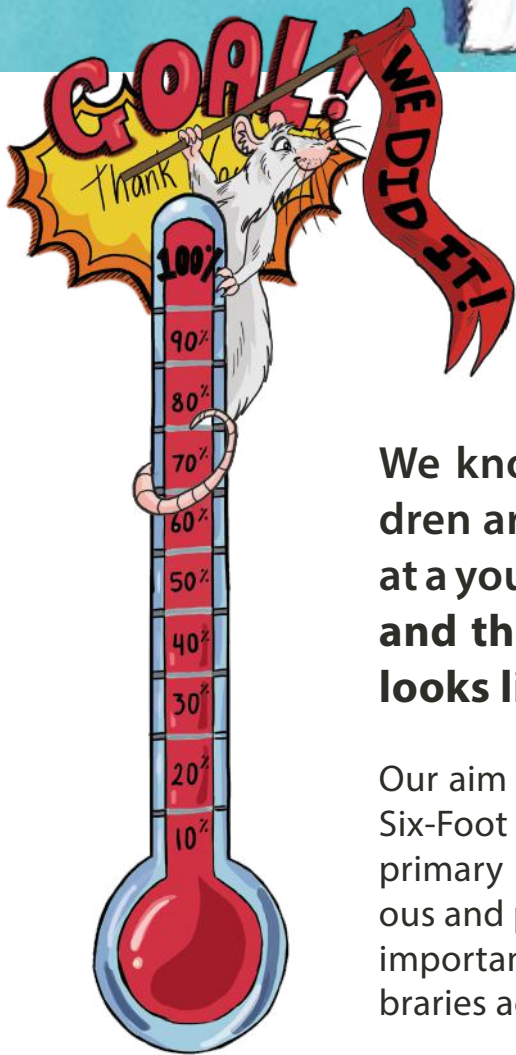
In reality, it is possible this shifting attitude towards the Forced Swim Test is likely because of the hard work of NZAVS, PETA, and other organisations around the world. If we were to stop our campaign, the use of this test could creep back up!

We immediately started an online campaign, rallying people to contact Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, and asking her to step in and protect animals. These plans had to swiftly come to a halt when COVID-19 hit NZ.

Now our work on this campaign is mostly happening behind the scenes. We are talking with key stakeholders and members of the industry to encourage systemic changes. Looking forward, we hope to have positive news to share with our many supporters soon.



# THE SIX-FOOT RATS



## The Six-Foot Rats

We know how important it is to ensure that children are introduced to important ideas and issues at a young age. Our tamariki are our future leaders and their beliefs will help shape what the world looks like for generations to come.

Our aim this year was to get a copy of our children's book, *The Six-Foot Rats* by Rebecca Gibbs into most public libraries and primary school libraries in New Zealand. Thanks to our generous and passionate supporters, we achieved this goal! Now this important educational resource is on the shelf in over 2000 libraries across the country.



The potential these books have to educate our kids and inspire them to help end animal testing is huge!

The Six-Foot Rats offers a way of teaching children about animal experimentation and its fundamental flaws in a light-hearted yet powerful way. It highlights the simple and obvious fact that humans are not six-foot rats. Therefore, using rats, mice, or any other animal to try and test products and medicines meant for humans makes no sense.

We have had so much positive feedback from schools who have received a copy of the book. Here's just one of the beautiful messages that we received:



*My partner & I came across the incredible book 'The Six-Foot Rats'. It was such an incredible book and brought tears to my eyes when reading it. I hope many schools have this book so children can learn what not to do and the importance of caring for all animals. Not many books bring tears to my eyes like this book did.*





## Stop the Otago Animal Labs & Future Planning

**We have continued work hard on our Stop the Otago Animal Labs campaign. This launched back in 2016 in response to the University of Otago's announcement that they were going to build a new \$50 million animal lab.**

NZAVS spearheaded a massive response to this decision, calling on the university to drop the lab. Despite this, the University of Otago has made no concessions of any kind and have chosen to keep this focus on investing in outdated research methods.

In response, NZAVS' campaign plans are growing in order to better influence the industry on a wider scale. Exposing the cruelty of Otago's animal research is a critical component of this plan. By exposing to the public what happens at the University of Otago, we can work with other key decision-makers to address animals used in research, testing, and teaching.

The flagship of this new initiative is our Striking at the Source campaign, which will target the fundamental drivers of animal use in science. We prepared for and set up this new campaign for the next financial year!





**2500**  
**SCHOOLS**  
**SURVEYED**  
**ABOUT**  
**DISSECTION**

## Kind Education

**We launched a Kind Education campaign aimed at creating a future where all schools and tertiary institutions in NZ no longer using animals in harmful ways to teach students.**

This campaign is heavily focused on education, so a lot of resources were developed throughout the year for students, teachers, and the wider public to learn more about this issue.

We discovered that the extent to which animal dissections are conducted at schools in NZ was, for the most part,

unknown, so we conducted a massive survey to over 2500 schools in NZ. Our Kind Education Intern, Brooke Moon-ey, took on this project and spent many hours responding to and following up with hundreds of schools. The final results of this survey are nearly ready to be published!

We also presented on this issue to the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) and since then, NAEAC has promoted alternative methods to animal dissection to all of the Animal Ethics Committees in NZ – the exact people who need educated on these superior methods!



**LAB  
RODENTS  
RESCUED &  
REHOMED!**

## **Out of the Labs - Animals rehomed and replaced**

**Continuing on from the success of the NZAVS and HUHA Out of the Labs campaign (which resulted in the Government actively encouraging the rehoming of animals who have been used in science last year!), we were able to help with the rehoming of multiple groups of animals.**

Both mice and rats were rehomed from a university in NZ. In the past, these animals would have been euthanised but

because of our campaign with HUHA, they all met a very different fate – one full of treats, toys and endless love!

On top of this great news, the university using these mice decided to stop and replace the use of these animals in future teaching exercises. Moving forward, HUHA and NZAVS will not need to help with rehoming these mice each year because they will not have been bred for this purpose in the first place. This is the best possible outcome and a result we hope to replicate across the country!

## The Law & Animals

Changes in law can affect animals used in science and it is our job to be their voice and make sure any new legislative or regulatory changes do not negatively impact them. In short, we play an important role — defending animals used in science!

We made two submissions throughout the year, one on proposed changes to do with hazardous substances and the other to do with proposed changes around significant surgical procedures. We do not just make these submissions quietly: we also share them with our supporters and the wider public and encourage others to add their voice as well.

We also started a research project with the end goal of identifying all the different requirements for animal testing in NZ. We need to be aware of any rules like this, so we know exactly what areas to target. This was a HUGE research project that required the helpful expertise of multiple lawyers.

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It is our job  
to be their  
voice...





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**We are the only organisation that is focused solely on defending animals used in science.**

## Exposing the industry

**By exposing cruel animal tests that have happened in NZ, we push this important issue right into the spotlight. We shock and outrage and, in turn, educate and motivate people to help end animal experimentation and the harmful use of animals in science. In doing so, we also put pressure on decision-makers responsible for approving the use of animals in science and hold them accountable.**

NZAVS holds an important position in Aotearoa – we are the only organisation that is focused solely on defending animals used in science. It is up to us to force change and one of the ways we can do that is by exposing the industry and putting much-needed pressure on where it is needed!

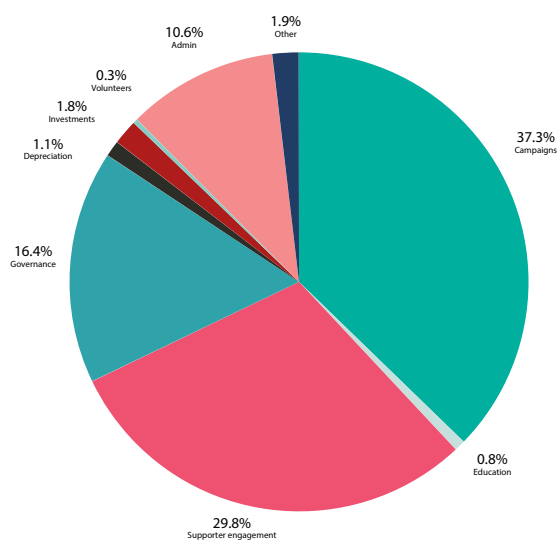
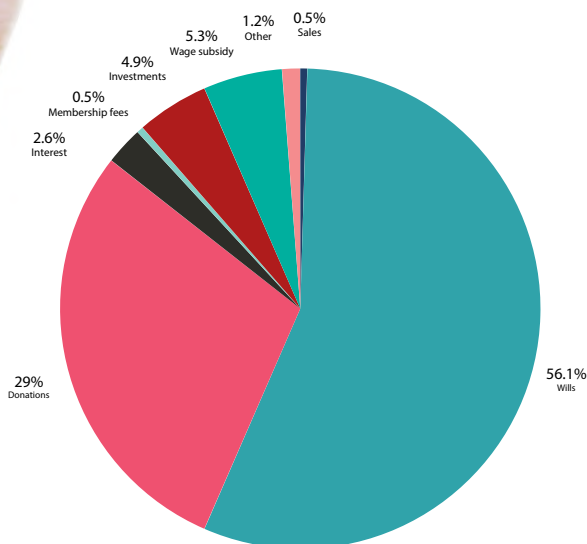
We conducted multiple exposés throughout the year highlighting how animals are used in NZ, including:

- The use of rabbits in a cruel experiment where they were forced to endure gruesome eye irritability tests for five days straight. The rabbits were restrained with a towel, their eyelids pulled apart, and for five days in a row, scientists rubbed substance containing Manuka Honey directly into their eyes.
- The use of dogs obtained from a pound, cats, and chickens in a secondary poisoning risk test where they were fed the carcasses of poisoned possums.
- The use of cows in studies where they have holes cut into the sides of their bodies (fistulas) which are then covered in a removal plastic cap so that their stomach contents can easily be accessed.



# Financials

## NZAVS Financial Summary – 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020



INCOME	2019/2020
Sales	\$1,612
Gifts from wills	\$192,625
Donations	\$99,750
Interest	\$8,803
Membership fees	\$1,564
Investments	\$16,736
Wage subsidy	\$18,259
Other sources	\$4,159
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$343,507</b>

EXPENSES	2019/2020
Ending animal experimentation campaigns	\$89,587
Education and public awareness	\$1,852
Supporter engagement	\$71,709
Governance	\$39,497
Depreciation	\$2,714
Investments	\$4,221
Volunteer costs	\$781
Administration costs	\$25,499
Other expenses	\$4,504
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$240,314</b>

NZAVS' full financial statements are available on the Incorporated Societies website.





**nzavs**  
Ending Animal Experimentation

[nzavs.org.nz](http://nzavs.org.nz)