



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

Thank You - From Team NZAVS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As we look back on 2025, I want to share a clear picture of what your support has made possible. Everything below happened because people like you chose to stand with us and back meaningful change for animals in Aotearoa.

CONTENTS:

- 1 W.E BRADSHAW GRANT
- 2 BRIGHT FUTURE REPORT
- 3 KIND EDUCATION
- 4 LIVESTOCK EXPORT BAN
- 5 A COMMISSIONER FOR ANIMALS
- 6 2024 ANIMAL USAGE STATS

THANK YOU

We couldn't do any of this without you. Every part of our work is only made possible by the support we receive, whether that's donations, sharing our campaigns, speaking up for animals, volunteering time, or simply staying connected to us.

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WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE, AND YOU MUST DECIDE WHAT DIFFERENCE YOU WANT TO MAKE”

Dr Jane Goodall

A close-up photograph of a microscope's objective lenses, showing labels like 'A100 1.30oil 160/0.17' and 'A10 0.25 160/0.17'. The image is partially obscured by a teal overlay containing text.

W.E. BRADSHAW GRANT

Our very own grant funding animal-free research

A LIFE- CHANGING GIFT

One of the most exciting initiatives we launched this year was the W.E. Bradshaw University Innovation Grant. It is a fund created thanks to an incredibly generous legacy gift left to NZAVS by the late W.E. Bradshaw.

His kindness planted the seed for something big: a long-term resource that helps shift New Zealand away from harmful animal-based research and towards innovative, humane, animal-free science.

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FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON
OUR GRANT VISIT
[NZAVS.ORG.NZ/GRANT](https://nzavs.org.nz/grant)

AN INSPIRATIONAL START

Since launching the grant, we've been blown away by the level of interest, not only from universities, but also from independent researchers, teachers, secondary schools, innovators working on humane technologies, and early-career scientists seeking better alternatives. This response makes one thing clear: New Zealand is ready for a major shift toward animal-free, human relevant research and teaching. We all want better options, and this grant is helping to drive that change.

GROWING THE GRANT

In 2026, our focus will be growing the funding pool for the grant and expanding it into a broader range of grant opportunities. Right now, this is the only funding in Aotearoa dedicated specifically to replacing the use of animals in science. To create the greatest impact, we want to build the capacity to offer multiple rounds of grant funding each year.



BRIGHT FUTURE REPORT

Your go-to resource for non-animal methods

MOVING FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

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.

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ANIMAL-FREE SCIENCE IS NOT THE FUTURE - ITS HERE NOW

A RESOURCE FOR EVERYONE

For the first time, a comprehensive, solution-focused resource has been placed directly in the hands of decision-makers at our universities & research institutions.

You can read all about the exciting non-animal technologies available right now in our Bright Future Report at <https://www.nzavs.org.nz/our-work/bright-future-report>

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.



KIND EDUCATION IN NZ

Our mission to replace animal dissections in teaching

THE PROBLEM

Across New Zealand, thousands of animals are still being used for teaching purposes each year, including dissections and practical demonstrations that rely on harmful, outdated methods.

Many students feel uncomfortable or distressed, and educators often tell us they want to move away from animal use but face financial and resource barriers.

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DONATE TO OUR
CHRISTMAS APPEAL AT:
[WWW.NZAVS.ORG.NZ/
FORM/CHRISTMAS-
APPEAL](http://WWW.NZAVS.ORG.NZ/FORM/CHRISTMAS-APPEAL)

WHAT WE ARE DOING

Our Kind Education campaign is working to replace harmful teaching practices with humane, modern learning tools. We're supporting teachers, students, and institutions by providing information, delivering educational resources, and helping schools and universities access high-quality animal replacements, including reusable dissection models, surgical training models, virtual anatomy tools, and computer-based learning platforms. Kind Education will be a core focus for us in 2026.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025

This Christmas, we're raising funds to get more humane teaching tools into classrooms and support more schools and universities ready to make the switch.

Your donation can help reduce the number of animals used in education immediately by funding real alternatives that students can use again and again. If you'd like to create lasting change for both animals and learners, please consider making a Christmas gift to our Kind Education campaign.



THE BAN ON LIVE EXPORTS

Why we support keeping the ban in place

BANNING LIVE EXPORT

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 EXPORT AND TESTING

NZAVS revealed that animals in NZ 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.

THESE EXPERIMENTS ARE CRUEL AND INACCURATE

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.

We are pleased that live export continues to be banned despite government threats, and will push for the ban to continue in 2026. @reallygreatsite

#ProtectTheBan

A COMMISSIONER FOR ANIMALS

Why independent oversight is needed

NZAVS SHOWS SUPPORT AT PARLIAMENT

NZAVS attended the launch at Parliament of the New Zealand Animal Law Association's major new report: A Commissioner for Animals in New Zealand.

The report shows that oversight of animal welfare in New Zealand is scattered, conflicted, and deeply under-resourced. Those currently responsible for protecting animals are also tasked with driving economic growth – a clear built-in conflict of interest that puts financial & industry priorities ahead of animal welfare.

THE SUGGESTED SOLUTION: AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER FOR ANIMALS

The report makes a strong, evidence-based case for creating an independent Crown entity - a commissioner whose sole focus is animal welfare.

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

MPI is responsible for both enforcing the Animal Welfare Act and supporting primary industry expansion. Economic goals routinely override animal welfare concerns.

WEAK & FRAGMENTED OVERSIGHT

Animal protection is currently split between MPI, SPCA, Police, DOC, local authorities, and advisory committees. None have the independence or mandate required to ensure consistent protection for animals.

ADVISORY BODIES WITHOUT REAL POWER

NAWAC and NAEAC can advise on welfare, but their recommendations can be (and have been) ignored, overridden, or deprioritised due to industry pressure or government direction.

CHRONIC UNDERFUNDING

MPI's entire animal welfare budget is less than 3% of its total spend, leaving little capacity for effective oversight, enforcement, or policy progress.



A COMMISSIONER FOR ANIMALS

Why independent oversight is needed

HOW DOES THIS TIE INTO ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION?

MPI's dual role in both overseeing animal welfare and promoting the economic growth of the animal agriculture sector creates a clear conflict of interest, particularly given that around half of all animal experimentation in New Zealand is carried out to increase that sector's profitability.

This has serious implications for how experiments are justified and approved. Centralising animal welfare oversight within an independent body would also allow for proper review of the Animal Ethics Committee system, which is currently biased.

These Committees often include scientists who use animals for their research themselves, making approval of similar studies more likely and undermining genuine animal welfare protection.

WHATS BEST FOR ANIMALS

Animals of Aotearoa deserve a separate, independent commissioner whose focus is animal rights, not profits.

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COMPASSION, NOT
PROFIT, SHOULD BE
THEIR FOCUS

*Brooke Mooney - NZAVS Supporter
Operations Officer*



2024 ANIMAL USAGE STATS

The latest statistics of animals used for RTT in Aotearoa

TOTAL ANIMALS USED: 602,318

In 2024, 602,318 animals were used for research, testing, or teaching, an increase of 285,750 animals from the previous year.

Most of this rise comes from the increased use of wild-caught fish, but there were also increases in cats, dogs, rabbits, crustaceans/cephalopods, cattle, deer, goats, pigs, and sheep.

The three-year rolling average also climbed to 437,077, almost 100,000 higher than the previous year.

ANIMALS KILLED: 110,245

A total of 110,245 animals died or were euthanised during or after manipulations. This includes animals killed solely for the purpose of using their tissues.

Breakdown:

- Died during/after manipulations: 66,084
- Killed for tissues: 44,161

In addition, 139,686 animals bred for research but never used were killed - nearly 30,000 more than last year. This included mice, rats, fish, guinea pigs, goats, rabbits, possums, amphibians, and sheep.

WE MUST DO BETTER

These numbers reflect a system still heavily reliant on animal use, and in many areas, increasing that use. It reinforces why NZ needs genuine investment in human relevant, animal-free science and why our work pushing for alternatives, education, and systemic change remains essential.

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THESE NUMBERS REFLECT ONGOING, SYSTEMIC ISSUES WITH HOW ANIMALS ARE BRED, USED, AND DISPOSED OF IN NZ'S RESEARCH SYSTEM.

Jade Pengelly - NZAVS Executive Officer



WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2026

We have big plans for the year to come!

W.E BRADSHAW INNOVATION GRANT

Grant applications close on 31 January. From there, we'll begin shortlisting and visiting the research centres of our top applicants to get a clear understanding of how their projects will be delivered. We expect to announce the recipient mid-year - keep an eye out for more news.

We will also be working hard to find secure funding to ensure we can continue to expand our grant programme, offering funding to more researchers wanting to pursue human relevant, animal free research.

If you'd like to help us fund a grant or donate toward expanding this programme, please get in touch

KIND EDUCATION

Our Kind Education programme will keep pushing for animal-free learning across schools and universities. In 2026, we will focus on providing more resources, more training support, and more access for educators to high-quality alternatives like reusable dissection models, virtual anatomy tools, and modern surgical training models.

ELECTION 2026

As New Zealand heads toward the next election, we'll be running a clear, factual campaign outlining where each political party stands on issues related to animal experimentation.

Our goal is to empower supporters with reliable information so you can cast a vote that reflects your values and supports the strongest path forward for animals.

Whether you are most interested in funding for animal-free, human relevant research, more transparency, regulatory change, or better education policies, we'll clearly explain what each party is committing to, so you can make an informed choice as a voter.

@reallygreatsite