

Subscribe for \$0.50/week

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [Local News](#)



Ontario to end medical research testing on dogs, cats following whistleblower exposé

'If there's anyone else out there that's doing this to animals, come clean, because we're gonna catch you,' says Premier Doug Ford

By Liam Casey, [Chris Thompson](#) • Windsor Star
Published Aug 26, 2025 2 minute read [Join the conversation](#)



Ontario will ban medical research testing on dogs and cats after whistleblowers exposed puppy experiments at a London hospital. PHOTO BY SUPPLIED

By: The Canadian Press

Ontario will ban research testing on dogs and cats, Premier Doug Ford said Monday as he called the practice “cruel.”

“You aren’t going to use pets — dogs or cats — to experiment on any longer,” Ford said at an unrelated news conference in London, Ont.

“Simple as that. We just don’t do that, it’s cruel, and it’s unacceptable.”

Two whistleblowers came forward to Animal Justice earlier this year with concerns about dogs undergoing tests for cardiac research at the Lawson Research Institute at St. Joseph’s Health Care London.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

EXCLUSIVE: Puppies secretly tested and killed at Ontario hospital for human heart research



Headline News

Get the latest headlines, breaking news and columns.

Sign Up

By signing up you consent to receive the above newsletter from Postmedia Network Inc.

Interested in more newsletters? [Browse here.](#)

The animal rights’ organization then put the staffers in touch with the University of Toronto’s Investigative Journalism Bureau.

That led to an article published earlier this month that found the dogs — mostly puppies — were used for tests and killed before their internal organs were removed for further examination.

The research institute decided, after speaking with the province earlier this month, to stop all research on dogs. The hospital said it conducted the experiments under proper authorities and followed all rules and regulations.

It noted that both Health Canada and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration “require animal-tested protocols as proof-of-principle for efficacy and safety,

before new treatments can be used in human patients.”

STORY CONTINUES BELOW



The hospital also said animal testing is only done when there are “no scientifically valid alternatives.”

Read More

EXCLUSIVE: Puppies secretly tested and killed at Ontario hospital for human heart research



Letters: Ontario hospital's killing of puppies and dogs 'distressing'



TRENDING

1



'Volley of gunfire' – new report details moment Windsor police killed 'paranoid' man

2



Quick police response ends east Windsor armed robbery



ATCO focuses on employees' well-being and growth

Sponsored by [Alberta's Top Employers](#)

3



Barry Zekelman: The Canadian government is messing up when it comes to keeping our steel industry alive

4



Feds invest \$12M in Windsor-Essex homebuilding, including 3D-printed houses

5



Tecumseh Corn Fest proves its the cream of the crop



St. Joseph said it has since stopped its “groundbreaking research that has resulted in major strides in cardiac care and treatment.”

News of the dog testing kicked off a series of texts between Ford and one of the whistleblowers.

“I got to thank the whistleblower that sent me pictures and texted me and everything else,” Ford said. “That person’s a champion.”

Ford also had a warning for other scientists.

“Now I’m gonna start looking for everyone else,” he said.

“If there’s anyone else out there that’s doing this to animals, come clean, because we’re gonna catch you.”

Animal Justice welcomed news of the upcoming legislation.

“Ontarians love our pets like family, and they should never be made to suffer in cruel experiments,” said Camille Labchuk, executive director of the organization.

ADVERTISEMENT

“But we hope this is just the beginning. Ontario currently allows lost and abandoned cats and dogs in shelters to be sold to experimenters. It’s important to close that loophole, and to pass laws making sure animals get a second chance and can be adopted after experiments.”