

What Animal Welfare Organisations in the U.S. Expect in the Future

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The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is the nation's largest animal protection organization, with 11 million supporters. Although we speak only for ourselves, we suspect that our expectations for the future are similar to those of other animal protection organizations in the United States and perhaps even in Europe. The HSUS would like to see all stakeholders (Three Rs centres, regulatory agencies, industry, academia, nongovernmental organizations, etc.) embrace "21st Century Toxicology" as exemplified in the 2007 National Research Council report on "Toxicity Testing in the United States." To bring this vision to fruition, we need international cooperation, strategic focus, and adequate funding. The HSUS is spearheading the Human Toxicology Project Consortium to help facilitate this process in the US. Our sister organization, Humane Society International, is working with European Union partners on a 7th Framework Programme project to coordinate existing large-scale EU alternative efforts and create a research and development roadmap to spur 21st Century Toxicology in the EU. At the same time, stakeholders should support more immediate Three Rs goals, including animal-friendly implementation of the Cosmetics Directive, REACH, 86-609 revision, reform of US chemicals legislation, and similar programs, as well as effective execution of individual alternatives programs.