

# Dane County Dog Experimentation 2018-2022



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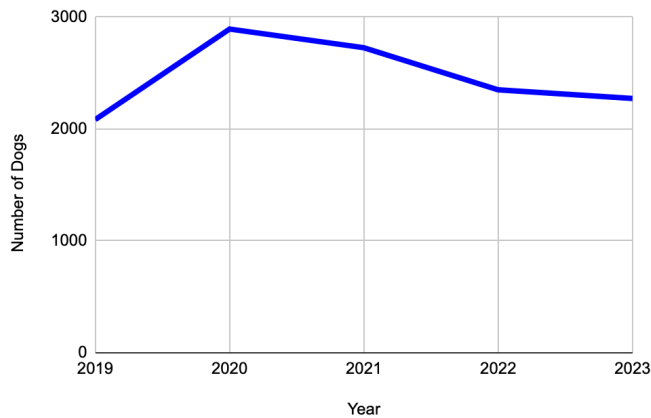
Residents of Dane County, Wisconsin love dogs: Dane County has 8 off-leash dog parks, which range in size from 11 acres to an impressive 79 acres, the City of Madison offers 9 fenced, off-leash dog parks, and the other cities, towns, and villages within Dane County offer many more.<sup>12</sup> There are countless dog groomers, trainers, daycares, walkers, pet sitters, and supply stores within the county. The Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) is one of the nation’s leading animal welfare organizations, providing “refuge, healing, and new beginnings to thousands of companion animals, exotic species, farm animals, and injured or orphaned wild animals every year.”<sup>13</sup> There are several smaller shelters and rescues doing animal welfare work too. And yet, each year,

## Dane County, Wisconsin experiments on more dogs than it adopts.

This claim is well substantiated by available data, as laid out in this report<sup>4</sup>.

In any given year, the Dane County Humane Society adopts over 1,000 dogs, and the largest four Dane County rescues combined (including DCHS) adopt out over 2,000 dogs total.<sup>5</sup> This amounts to between five and six dogs adopted on an average day. It takes hundreds of employees and thousands of volunteers to make that happen as well as a supportive community that welcomes these dogs into safe, loving homes. Every person working in the rescue and sheltering world or who has adopted a rescue dog has played a crucial role in improving the lives of many dogs in need.

Dane County Dog Adoptions



<sup>1</sup> <https://parks-lwr.dane.gov/parks/dogs-in-parks>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/dogoffleashpark/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.giveshelter.org/about-dchs>

<sup>4</sup> All yearly data for charts in this report is displayed by fiscal year, from Oct 1 - Sept 30. This is done because the experimentation data is only available by fiscal year, whereas the adoption data is available by month, so it is possible to translate the adoption data into fiscal year and ensure an accurate comparison of data. As a result, adoption numbers by year may look different than shelter reports by year.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.shelteranimalscount.org/intake-and-outcome-database-iod/>

## **Most people in Dane County have no idea that there are thousands of dogs nearby who aren't so lucky.**

Many people think dog experimentation is illegal because if an ordinary citizen were to do the things to companion dogs that routinely happen to dogs in labs, they would be arrested and charged with animal cruelty. It often takes some effort to prove to people that not only is dog experimentation still legal, but Dane County is home to some of the largest breeders for dog experimentation in the country.

The federal government classifies the legalized abuse of the experimentation industry into categories<sup>6</sup>:

Category B: Number of dogs being bred, conditioned, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery but not yet used for such purposes.

Category C: Number of dogs upon which teaching, research, experiments, or tests were conducted involving no pain, distress, or use of pain-relieving drugs.

Category D: Number of dogs upon which experiments, teaching, research, surgery, or tests were conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the dogs and for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs were used.

Companies that experiment on animals are required to file a form each year to the Department of Agriculture, reporting the number of dogs that fall into the categories above. They do not report any additional data beyond the aggregate number of dogs in each category; they do not report where the dogs come from, the age of the dogs, what experiments they conduct, or what happens to the dogs after the conclusion of the experiment.

### **LabCorp**

The largest Dane County business practicing legalized animal cruelty is LabCorp, who consistently reports abusing well over 3,000 dogs each year in its annual report to the Department of Agriculture.<sup>7</sup> Even in 2022, the year in which LabCorp reported the *fewest* total number of dogs, they still reported 3,429 dogs. Given there are only 365 days in a year, that means that

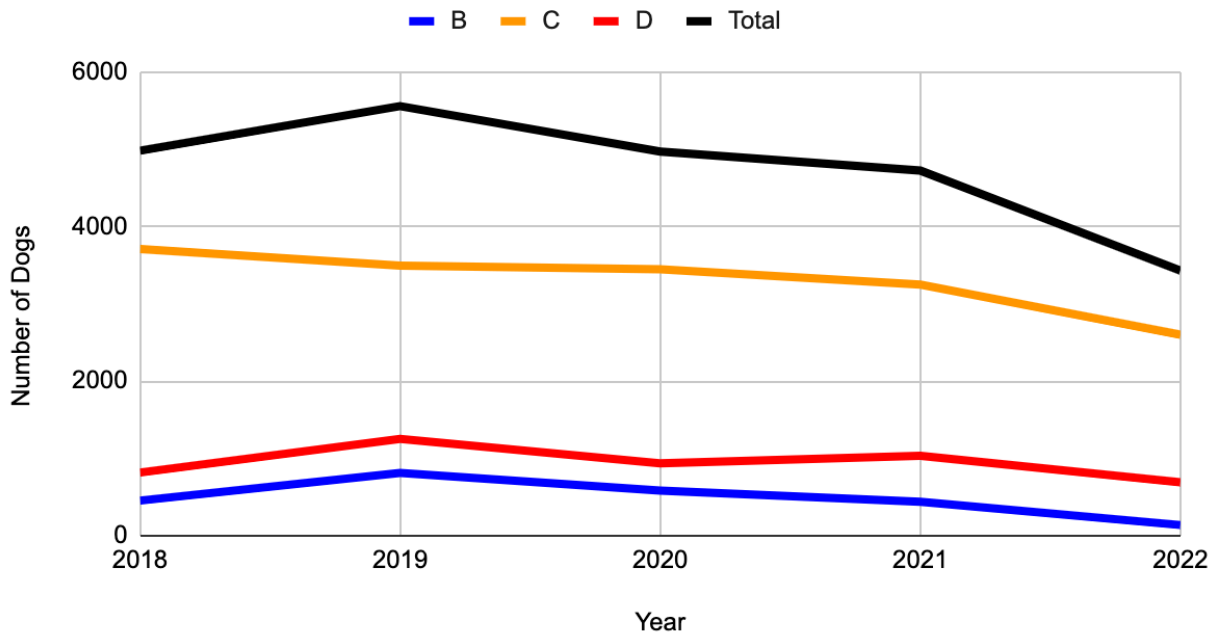
## **LabCorp disappears an average of 10 dogs per day, every day.**

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Form 7023, [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/APHIS\\_7023.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/APHIS_7023.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> APHIS Annual Reports, <https://aphis.my.site.com/PublicSearchTool/s/annual-reports>, customer number 640

## Labcorp



The good news with LabCorp is that their abuse appears to be on a decline. Since it's a private company, there is no way to know for sure why the numbers have declined from a peak of 5,556 in 2019, but LabCorp may be moving towards more modern methods that are both cheaper and more effective than outdated dog experimentation. In 2016, LabCorp (known as Covance at the time) partnered with Emulate to integrate organ-on-a-chip technology into preclinical drug evaluation and testing services.

“We are pleased to partner with Emulate on technology that shows promise to help improve the speed and success of early-stage drug evaluation,” said Dr. Steven Anderson, Ph.D., chief scientific officer for Covance. “This project is indicative of our commitment to support and implement innovative technology that can help to reduce the time, costs and risks of drug development.”

— DR. STEVEN ANDERSON, PH.D., CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER OF COVANCE<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> <https://emulatebio.com/press/emulate-announces-strategic-collaboration-with-covance/>

## Ridglan Farms

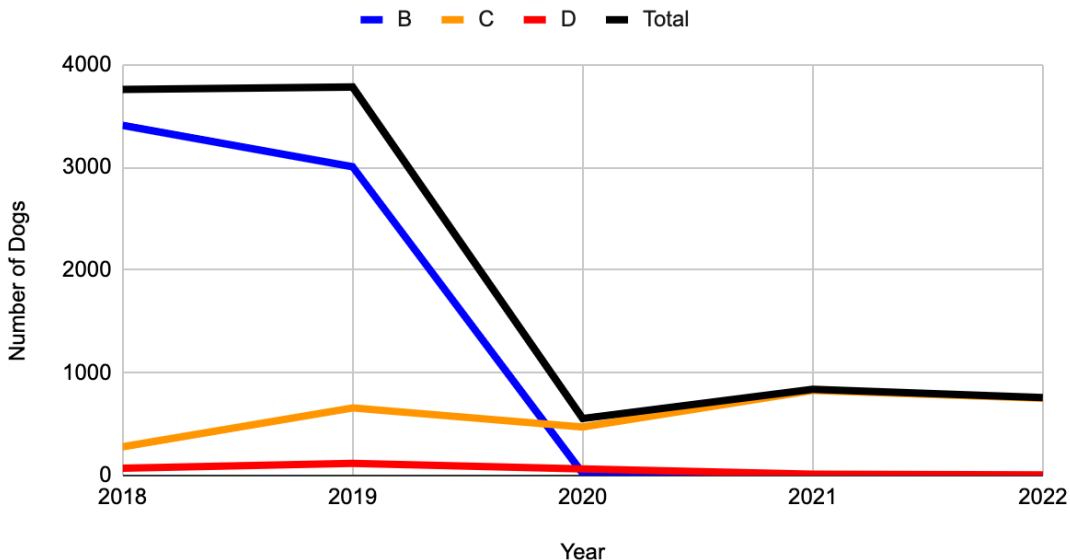
The second largest abuser of dogs in Dane County is Ridglan Farms, a research puppy mill that keeps thousands of dogs stacked in cages in windowless sheds and sells their puppies for experimentation. The vast majority of Ridglan Farms' beagles are sold as puppies to research institutions, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison.<sup>9</sup> Ridglan stopped reporting any dogs in Column B of its annual APHIS report in 2021, after reporting thousands of dogs in Column B each year for the prior 20+ years. The effort involved in adopting out 3,000+ dogs in one year would have required more resources than all of the shelters in Dane County, and given that Ridglan Farms only has 25 employees,<sup>10</sup> it's unlikely that the dogs were adopted out. The options for what happened to those dogs are limited, and none of them are likely to involve an improved quality of life for them.

### **Did Ridglan Farms kill thousands of dogs en masse? Or do the dogs still exist and Ridglan is falsifying their reports?**

This large discrepancy in the number of dogs at Ridglan Farms is evidence against the claim that the animal experimentation industry is highly regulated.

### **The animal experimentation industry is so poorly regulated that thousands of dogs can disappear with no explanation.**

#### Ridglan



<sup>9</sup>

<https://isthmus.com/news/cover-story/beagles-bred-at-two-dane-county-facilities-go-to-labs-around-the-country/>

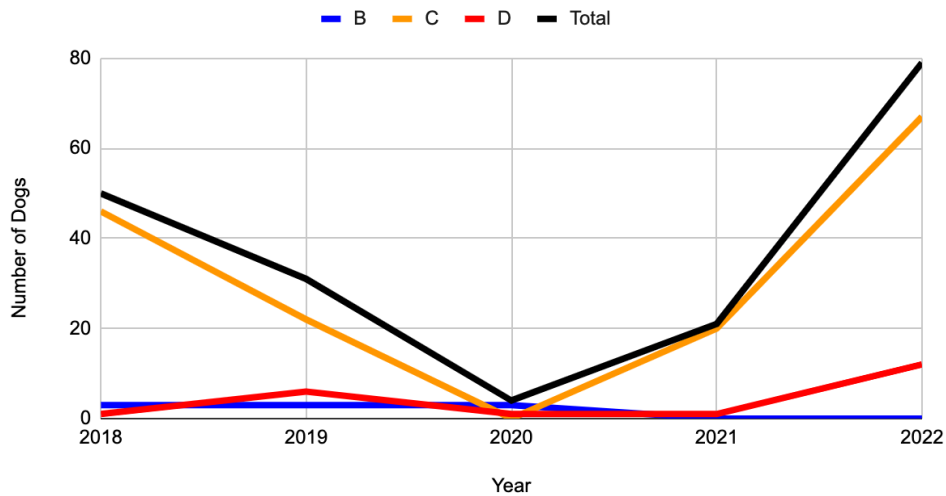
<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ridglan.net/about/>

## UW-Madison and Madison Area Technical College

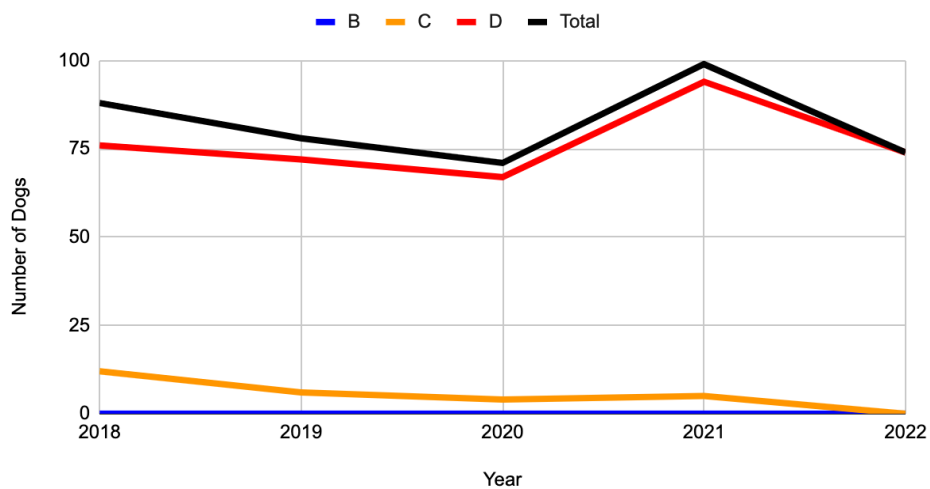
Both UW-Madison and MATC report experimenting on dogs, though at much lower numbers than LabCorp and Ridglan Farms, at less than 100 dogs per year each. Of course, to those individual dogs, the fact that the aggregate numbers are lower is irrelevant.

UW-Madison had been reducing its use of dogs since the 2000s when they were regularly reporting over 600 dogs per year and were down as low as 4 dogs in 2020, but the numbers picked up again in 2021 and 2022. Dane4Dogs has requested records from the University in an attempt to determine why they are increasing their experiments on dogs, but as of the publication date of this report, the University has not responded.

### UW-Madison



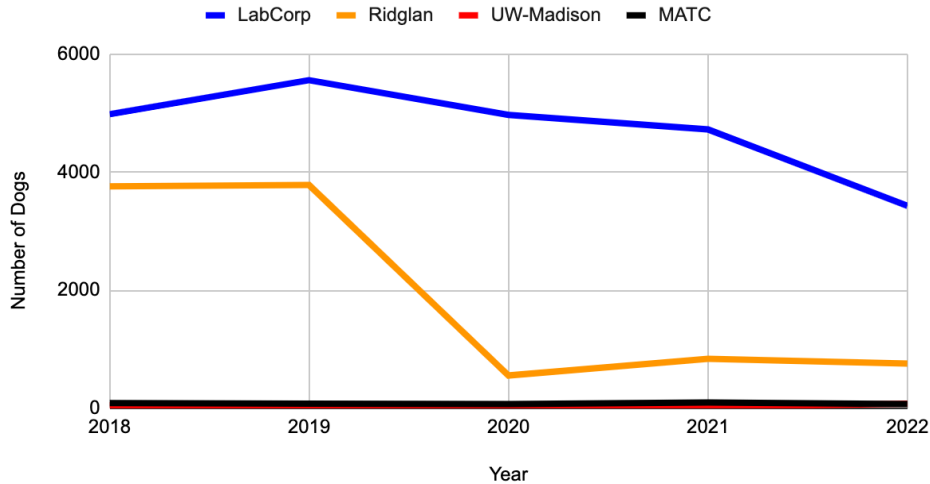
### MATC



## Summary

Scale is important, so while the charts above are all different scales to allow for a clear picture of the data, the true comparison only happens when the scales are the same. When we compare by entity, we quickly see that the numbers of dogs abused by LabCorp and Ridglan dwarf UW-Madison and MATC, which barely register on the chart.

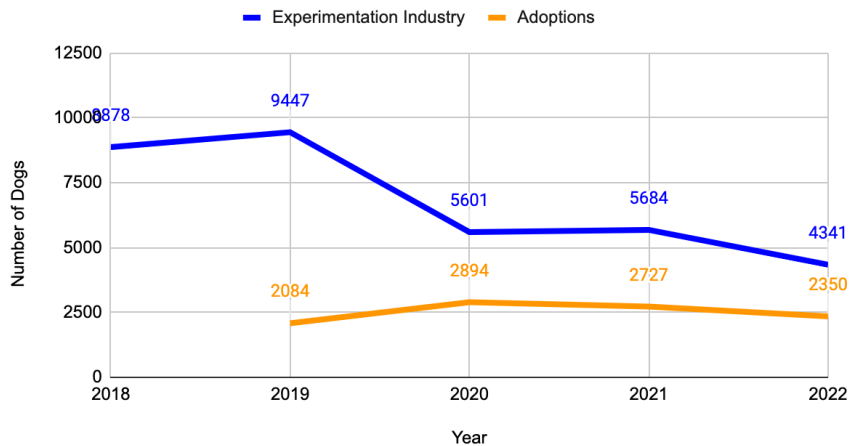
### By Entity



And even though Ridglan Farms stopped reporting over 3,000 dogs between 2019 and 2020, the scale of the experimentation industry is still so large that it is clear that

## Dane County experiments on more dogs than it adopts.

### Dane County Totals



The good news is that it's only a matter of time before dog experimentation is a relic of the past, as the poor predictive value of animal experimentation is well documented<sup>11</sup> and alternatives are gaining traction<sup>12</sup>. If Dane County truly wants to become a leader in biomedical and scientific research, it will need to confront its legacy of legalized animal abuse and move quickly towards the inevitable future, preferably by banning research puppy mills and dog experimentation immediately.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6978558/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.wired.com/story/the-us-just-greenlit-high-tech-alternatives-to-animal-testing/>