

# Animals to Grow Human Organs Soon

Agence France-Presse

**Tokyo:** Proposed experiments with animal-human embryos cleared the first regulatory hurdle on Tuesday, reports said, as scientists seek permission for tests that could see human organs produced inside the growing body of an animal.

Researchers want to introduce a human stem cell into an animal embryo, to create a so-called "chimeric embryo", which they can implant into an animal's

womb. The hope is that this stem cell will grow into a fully-functioning human organ — a kidney or a liver, for example — as the animal matures.

This would mean when the creature is fully grown, the organ could be harvested from the animal and used for transplanting into a person in need. "Experts

will study what possibilities this kind of research will generate," especially with regard to ethics and human dignity, a government official said of the panel comprising scientists, law professors and journalists. During the meeting the government-appointed panel agreed on the framework of its recommenda-

tion and is expected to announce its final conclusion as early as next month.

That recommendation will be sent to a government committee tasked with drafting guidelines shaping the boundaries of Japan's cutting-edge embryonic research.

Japan currently allows scientists to grow chimeric embryos for up to two weeks in test-tubes, but prohibits them from putting those embryos into an animal's womb.

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