Animal Research Saves Lives

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) affirms the essential contribution of animals in research aimed at improving the health of both humans and animals. The role of animals remains critical in understanding the fundamental processes of life and in developing treatments for injury and disease.

"Without the use of animals and human beings, it would have been impossible to acquire the important knowledge needed to prevent much suffering and premature death not only among humans, but also among animals."

Albert B. Sabin, MD, Developer of the Polio Vaccine

92% of scientists polled in a Nature¹ survey agreed that animal research is essential to the advancement of biomedical science.

85% of the Nobel Prizes awarded in Physiology or Medicine have been dependent on research with animals²

For more information on how animals contribute to science, please visit: www.faseb.org/animalsinresearch

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Animal Research is Regulated

BY THE NUMBERS...
• Over 99% of animals used in research are specifically bred for research¹
• Approximately 95% of all animal research is conducted on mice, rats, and fish.² Other species are used only when necessary

REGULATIONS, POLICIES, AND PRINCIPLES
In the United States, there are two primary regulatory bodies that oversee animal research.

• United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  • Enforces the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), which regulates the treatment of certain species of vertebrate animals
  • Conducts unannounced inspections at least once a year; posts inspection reports publicly

• Public Health Service (PHS)
  • Requires institutions to ensure the appropriate care and use of all animals involved in research conducted or supported by the PHS
  • Requires institutions to adhere to the ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
  • Incorporates the U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)
• Oversees and evaluates all aspects of an institution's animal care and use program
• Is required by both AWA and PHS Policy
• Reviews research protocols involving vertebrate animals
• Inspects animal research facilities semi-annually to assure compliance with regulations
• Includes non-scientific members from the community

REPLACE, REDUCE, AND REFINE (3Rs)
The 3Rs guide how animals are used in biomedical research. Researchers should:
• REPLACE animal models with alternative, non-living models when feasible
• REDUCE the numbers of animals in research
• REFINE methods to improve animal welfare

LABORATORY ANIMALS RECEIVE HIGH QUALITY CARE
All personnel involved with the care and use of laboratory animals must be trained in laboratory animal science to ensure the animals’ well-being. Laboratory animal veterinarians oversee the clinical care and well-being of animals used in research, testing, and teaching. Laboratory animal technicians care for the research animals by providing food, water, and enrichment daily, and they monitor the health of the animals. Researchers receive training to ensure they have the expertise to perform procedures involving animals.

DID YOU KNOW? The Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) is an organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment. Approximately 700 of the most productive, high quality research institutions in the United States have AAALAC accreditation.