

USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

Animal Welfare Act, 1966- Public Law 89-544-amended several times was originally passed in order to:

- prevent the sale or use of animals that have been stolen
- prohibit animal fighting ventures
- ensure that animals used in research, for exhibition or as pets receive humane care and treatment
- regulate transportation, purchase, sale, housing, care, handling and treatment of such animals

The Animal Welfare Act exempts rats, mice and birds but the IACUC does not.

TITLE 9--ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

CHAPTER I--ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 1--DEFINITION OF TERMS--Table of Contents

Sec. 1.1 Definitions.

Animal means any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warm blooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. This term excludes: Birds, rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice of the genus *Mus* bred for use in research, and horses not used for research purposes and other farm animals, such as, but not limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber, With respect to a dog, the term means all dogs, including those used for hunting, security, or breeding purposes.

For the complete Act see:

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/legislat/usdaleg1.htm>

Implementing Regulations:

Dept. Agriculture, 9 CFR Subchapter A, Parts 1,2,3 & 4
Health Regulation Extension Act of 1985- Pub. L. 99-158

Implementing Policy:

Public Health Service, Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

All organizations must comply with NIH publication *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. New regulations on care of primates, dogs and cats were effective 8/14/91.

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) at NIH has responsibility for the general administration and coordination of the Policy, provides specific guidance, instruction, and materials to institutions that must comply with the Policy. Institutions must apply to OLAW to receive a certificate of assurance which **must be renewed every 4 years**.

List of institutions (domestic and foreign) with assurances can be found on OLAW website:
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FAQ-at OLAW site is an excellent reference

The Act requires an institution to

1. Establish an **Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)**:
 - Comprised of a minimum of 3 members (a veterinarian, and an individual not associated or related to someone associated with the research facility where animals will be housed)
 - Will review all proposed research projects involving animals
 - IACUC is required to inspect animal facilities every 6 months by at least 2 members of committee.

2. Enforce minimal standards of:

- Housing, feeding, etc of animals
- Exercising dogs; an adequate environment to promote psychological well being of primates
- Animal care and treatment
- Alternatives be considered by PI when a practice could involve pain
- If practice does involve pain that a veterinarian is consulted
- No animal is used for more than one major operative procedure

3. Research facilities subject to the Animal Welfare Act using or intending to use live animals in research and who receive Federal funding are required to register the facility with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture which inspects facilities every three years.

An alternative to inspection is accreditation thru the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC). A private, non-profit organization that promotes laboratory animal welfare and administers an accreditation program for institutions that meet or exceed standards in the care of animals used in research, teaching or testing. At the AAALAC site one can find a list of accredited sites including those in Europe. UVA is AAALAC accredited.
NIH Guidance regarding inspections: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-00-007.html>

4. Must send a report to OLAW annually.

5. When there is a subcontract to a foreign site that will be using animals in the performance of the project, the prime grantee's IACUC must review their protocol, ensure that the site has an appropriate OLAW Assurance and certify that the activity is acceptable to the prime grantee.

"International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals"-1985
The International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals were developed by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) as a result of extensive international and interdisciplinary consultations spanning the three-year period 1982-1984.
http://www.cioms.ch/1985_texts_of_guidelines.htm

For animal research:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/InvestigatorsNeed2Know.pdf>

http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/clinical/researchanimals/tutorial/iacuc_requirements.htm

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/ga/default.htm>