American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine  
Position Statement

The Value of AAALAC International Accreditation

Release Date

I. Position Statement

The American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) endorses institutional accreditation by AAALAC International.

II. Background

Excellence in science, research, testing, and education using animals follows from excellence in animal care. Quality animal care and use programs are guided by experienced professionals and regulatory standards for animal care and use. The AAALAC accreditation process assists institutions in demonstrating adherence to those standards and ensuring an ongoing commitment to, and achievement of, excellence in the care and use of animals. The peer review-based accreditation process evaluates animal care and use programs in respect to applicable national and international regulations and standards, with primary emphasis on the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, and the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals Used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes (ETS 123). AAALAC Council members, in concert with a strong team of ad hoc consultants and specialists who are considered experts in their fields, utilize a thorough, confidential, and rigorous procedure to assess all aspects of animal care and use programs.

ACLAM acknowledges that this independent assessment promotes high quality standards for laboratory animal care and use programs.