American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine
Position Statement

The 3Rs: Reduction, Refinement and Replacement

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I. Position Statement

The American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) is committed to the responsible and humane use of animals in research, teaching and testing and fully endorses the tenets of the 3Rs: Reduction, Refinement and Replacement.

II. Background

ACLAM supports the search for scientifically valid alternative methods that will reduce or replace the need for animals in research, teaching and testing. ACLAM believes that every effort should be made to refine experimental methods to minimize pain and distress as well as to use the appropriate sample size while achieving the scientific goals of the study. Scientific justification must be provided for studies that entail more than momentary unrelieved pain or distress. Diplomates of ACLAM are uniquely qualified to contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of techniques that promote the reduction of animal numbers, refinement of research methods and the replacement of animal models when appropriate.