American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine
Position Statement

Title: Research with Animals

Release Date: DRAFT

I. Position Statement

The American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine:

- Recognizes that humane research with animals is necessary to advance knowledge that is vital to preserving and improving health and quality of life for humans and animals, as well as conservation of wildlife and protection of the environment;
- Regards the use of animals in research, teaching, and testing to be a privilege, but not a right, carrying with it ethical responsibilities for humane care and use;
- Supports the oversight, care and use of research animals that is based on sound science and allows application of professional judgment and performance standards;
- Promotes the value that specially trained veterinarians and other laboratory animal professionals provide, and recognizes the need for this expertise in the treatment and prevention of spontaneous and study-related medical conditions in research animals;
- Condemns the use of intimidation, harassment, property damage, violence, disinformation campaigns, and other activities impeding the transformative work of dedicated researchers, support staff, or suppliers.

II. Background

Scientific research requiring laboratory animals continues to result in achievements that have advanced our understanding of life and its environment and the treatment of disease. The intersection of human and animal health with that of wildlife and the environment further necessitates continued study using animals. Advances in the prevention and treatment of disease have depended on accurate knowledge about the causes of disease, information about how disease affects the body, and careful development of drugs, medical devices, and surgical procedures that mitigate or cure disease.

Continued progress to benefit both human and animal health requires further research with animals because there is, as yet, no array of alternative systems that permit the complete replacement of animals. Both basic and applied animal research provide invaluable, and currently irreplaceable, avenues for understanding and advancing human health because of the many anatomic, physiologic, and genetic similarities between animals and humans. Basic animal research is essential to the discovery of fundamental scientific and medical principles. Applied animal research builds upon the foundation laid by basic research to develop novel treatments for disease. Humane and responsible animal research offers the best hope for the development of new methods of prevention, treatment, cure, and control of disease, and for reducing pain and suffering in people and animals. Animal-based research is and will be, for the foreseeable future, indispensable to biomedical progress for humans and animals.
ACLAM Position Statement – RESEARCH WITH ANIMALS

Through training and experience, laboratory animal veterinarians are uniquely qualified to diagnose and manage conditions that may impact the health and well-being of research animals or affect research outcomes. Laboratory animal veterinarians and other laboratory animal professionals play a vital role in the ethical conduct of research that uses animals.