

GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN THE CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS

(APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY)¹

Animal experiments are to be undertaken only with the purpose of advancing knowledge. Consideration should be given to the appropriateness of experimental procedures, species of animals used, and number of animals required.

Only animals that are lawfully acquired shall be used in this laboratory, and their retention and use shall be in every case in compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations, and in accordance with the NIH Guide.²

Animals in the laboratory must receive every consideration for their comfort; they must be properly housed, fed, and their surroundings kept in a sanitary condition.

Appropriate anesthetics must be used to eliminate sensibility to pain during all surgical procedures. Where recovery from anesthesia is necessary during the study, acceptable technique to minimize pain must be followed. Muscle relaxants or paralytics are not anesthetics and they should not be used alone for surgical restraint. They may be used for surgery in conjunction with drugs known to produce adequate analgesia. Where use of anesthetics would negate the results of the experiment such procedures should be carried out in strict accordance with the NIH Guide.² If the study requires the death of the animal, the animal must be killed in a humane manner at the conclusion of the observations.

The postoperative care of animals shall be such as to minimize discomfort and pain, and in any case shall be equivalent to accepted practices in schools of veterinary medicine.

When animals are used by students for their education or the advancement of science, such work shall be under the direct supervision of an experienced teacher or investigator. The rules for the care of such animals must be the same as for animals used for research.

Investigator

¹Revised 1980

²Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 78-23, Revised 1978, Office of Science and Health Reports, DRR/NIH, Bethesda, MD 20205.

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