



Animal Research at Princeton

**Prepared by Stuart Leland
Director, Research Integrity and Assurance**

**For use and distribution by the Princeton University
Research and Teaching Community**

September 1, 2015



Why are Animals Important for Research?

- Virtually every major medical advancement in the past century has resulted from experiments using animals
 - These advancements help humans and other animals
- Animals provide answers to fundamental biological, physiological, behavioral, and ecological questions
- Animals provide important models
 - **For human disease:** the complexity and interaction of intact organ systems in both the normal and diseased states can be studied
 - **For human-environment interactions**
- Animal studies provide ways to explore the safety and efficacy of new treatments for disease and methods for diagnosis



Animal Research Requires Ethical Responsibility

- Princeton University is committed to the humane and responsible use of animals in research
- Animals are used in research only when no relevant alternative exists to address scientific questions
- When animals are used, Princeton embraces the principles of the 3 Rs: Reduce, Replace, Refine



Animal Research is Highly Regulated

- **The Animal Welfare Act and Regulations**
 - Introduced in 1966; amended five times. A federal law that covers animal acquisition, housing, facilities, veterinary care, and research approval by the institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC)
 - Promulgated by the USDA, which makes annual, unannounced inspections and makes those results available to the public
- **Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)**
 - First published in 1963. Evidence-based guidelines for best practices on animal care; veterinary care; housing and management; physical plant
 - Used by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALACi) as a basis to accredit institutions
- **PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals**
 - Assurance with this Policy is required to receive funding from the NIH and NSF (effective Oct 1, 2015)
- **Additional federal and local regulations and guidelines for specific circumstances involving animals and:**
 - Biohazardous agents, chemical agents, radioactive materials, recombinant DNA



The Animal Care and Use Program at Princeton

Regulation requires that all US organizations that conduct animal research must have an effective **animal care and use program**. At Princeton, this program is overseen by:

- **Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR)**
 - Veterinarians, licensed veterinary technicians, certified animal care staff
 - Provide daily husbandry and care for all research animals; veterinary care; facility management; research support, guidance and expertise
- **Research Integrity and Assurance (RIA)**
 - Administers the IACUC and oversees the semi-annual facility inspections and program review
- **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**
 - Composed of scientists, non-scientist, veterinarians, and members of the community not affiliated with Princeton University
 - Reviews and approves every research protocol involving animals to ensure compliance with all regulations and guidelines
 - Inspects animal facilities and investigates animal welfare concerns

For More Information

- The Research Integrity and Assurance (RIA) website includes additional information about the program of animal care, including methods available to report concerns
 - <http://www.princeton.edu/ria/>