Animal Research at Princeton

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Research and Teaching Community

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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/