



# California Biomedical Research Association

P.O. Box 19340, Sacramento, California 95819-0340

Tel 916.558.1515 Fax 916.558.1523

E-mail: [info@ca-biomed.org](mailto:info@ca-biomed.org) Website: [www.ca-biomed.org](http://www.ca-biomed.org)

---

## Statement on the Use of Animals in Research

### Introduction

The California Biomedical Research Association (CBRA) is committed to promoting and protecting the continued advancement of human and animal health through biomedical research, teaching, and testing. Virtually all medical knowledge and treatment and almost every major medical advancement in the last 100 years has involved biomedical research. From antibiotics to blood transfusions, from dialysis to organ transplantation, from vaccinations to chemotherapy, bypass surgery and joint replacement, to antibiotics and inoculations, practically every present day protocol for the prevention, treatment, and control of disease, pain, and suffering is based on knowledge attained through research with animals. It has enhanced and lengthened the lives of untold numbers of humans *and* animals.

CBRA recognizes that the use of animals in research is an emotional and ethical issue, but also understands it as a necessary and critical component in continuing to discover, develop, and refine important medical advances. We emphasize that the responsible and humane treatment of laboratory animals is essential, and are committed to minimizing animal distress and reducing the number of animals used whenever possible. Our member facilities and organizations are strong supporters of animal welfare, and are committed to providing humane care and to ensuring the health and well-being of all animals in their care. To do otherwise would be unethical and irresponsible – poor animal care endangers the quality of our research work. It is our position that when animals must be used, that they be maintained and used in an ethical and humane manner and in full conformance with all governing regulations and guidelines.

### Alternatives

CBRA actively supports the development and use of non-animal based models of research and testing whenever possible. We ascribe to the concept of the 3 Rs of research (refinement, reduction, and replacement), and are proud of the work of our researchers in this area. The number of animals used in research in the U.S. has decreased by 40 percent since 1968. Final tests, however, must be done on a living model and experimentation on humans is illegal.

### Animals for Animal Health

In addition to the significant contribution of animal research to human health, animal research has also resulted in many remarkable life-saving and life-extending treatments for cats, dogs, farm animals, and wildlife, especially endangered species. It has helped in the development of vaccines to fight such diseases as distemper in dogs and cats, feline leukemia, infectious hepatitis virus, rabies, tetanus, influenza, and encephalitis. Animals have also helped in the creation of artificial joints for other animals, treatments for pet cancer and pet heart disease, antibiotics for infection, and treatments for vitamin deficiency in animal diseases such as rickets. Animal research has also made possible significant steps in ensuring the continuation of many endangered species through various means of artificial insemination, surrogate mothering, and incubation.

### **Additional Information on Animal Research**

The majority of animals used in research in the U.S. (over 95%) are rodents obtained from scientific breeding centers. Less than *one percent* are dogs, cats, and primates. The remaining animals are pigs, rabbits, cattle, and sheep (obtained from agricultural sources), and birds, fish, frogs, and snakes. Contrary to popular sentiment, the vast majority of animals used for research are obtained from specialty breeders or are bred by the researchers themselves. They are not from unlicensed individuals.

### **Laws and Regulations Governing Animal Research**

Federal law governs and maintains strict guidelines and regulations for the care, treatment, and use of animals in all research facilities. This law, the Animal Welfare Act is, regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), sets standards of cleanliness and care, including veterinary care and the use of painkillers for research animals. The Act requires that animal dealers be licensed and inspected. The USDA is required by the Act to conduct unannounced visits to all registered research facilities at least once a year. CBRA and all our member facilities/organizations support this law and work closely with the USDA to maintain the strictest of compliance. In addition, facilities receiving government research funding follow U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) guidelines regarding the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.” Each facility maintains an animal care and use committee (IACUC) that reviews every research project to ensure that animals are treated responsibly and humanely. IACUCs are composed of veterinarians, researchers, representatives from the scientific community, and at least one community member that is not affiliated with this facility.

### **Summary**

The use of animals in biomedical research is a privilege and researchers treat it as such. This privilege remains essential to the discovery of the causes, diagnoses, and treatment of disease and suffering in both humans and in animals. CBRA will continue to strive to promote public understanding and support for biomedical research and protect biomedical researchers, while strictly observing the laws that regulate this important work in order to ensure that animals are treated humanely, and constantly supporting refinement, reduction, and replacement.

### **Further Information**

For additional information about biomedical research, the use of animals in research, animal research for animal health, and the laws and regulations that govern and protect the use of animals in research, please contact the California Biomedical Research Association (916) 558-1515 or [www.ca-biomed.org](http://www.ca-biomed.org)

**TO SUPPORT THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH BY PROMOTING AND PROTECTING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND TEACHING.**