



Introduction

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

CBRA recognizes that the role of animals in research is an emotional issue, but understands it is a necessary and critical component in continuing to refine important medical advances, and in discovering and developing new ones. Our member facilities are strong supporters of animal welfare, and are committed to ensuring the health and well-being of all animals in their care. To do otherwise would be unethical and irresponsible.

Alternatives

CBRA actively supports the development and use of non-animal based models for 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. We are committed to reducing the number of animals used whenever possible, and it is our position that when animals must be used, that they be maintained in an ethical, scientifically valid, and humane manner, in full conformance with all governing regulations and guidelines. The majority of animals needed for research in the U.S. (over 95%) are rodents obtained from scientific breeding centers. Less than *one percent* of research models are dogs, cats, and primates, *combined*. Contrary to popular sentiment, the vast majority of animals used for research are obtained from specialty breeders for research or are bred by the researchers themselves.

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, treatment, and cures of disease and suffering in both humans and in animals. CBRA will continue to strive to promote public understanding and support for biomedical research, 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, animal research for animal health, and the laws and regulations that govern and protect animals in research, please contact the California Biomedical Research Association (916) 558-1515 or www.ca-biomed.org.