



## Fact Sheet Animals in Research Statistics<sup>1</sup>

- 74% of those polled in the U.S. believe the use of animals is necessary for medical advancement.
- Approximately 95% of the total number of animals needed for medical and scientific inquiry in the U.S. are rodents – i.e. rats, mice, etc. – specifically bred for this purpose. Dogs, cats, and nonhuman primates *together* account for *less than 1 %* of all animals necessary in medical research. Approximately 4% of animals used in research are pigs, sheep, rabbits, frogs, fish, and other species.
- The majority of purpose-bred rodents in the U.S., almost two-thirds, are bred as feeder food for reptiles/raptors, etc.
- The vast majority of dogs and cats used for medical research are specifically bred for research by USDA-licensed Class A dealers and have *never* been pets.
- The number of dogs used in biomedical research has declined 66% since 1973, and the number of cats used in biomedical research has declined 64% since 1973. In 2004, there were a total of 23,640 cats and 64,932 dogs involved in medical research.
- With very few exceptions, nearly all of the nonhuman primates needed for research are specifically bred at designated primate centers and other institutions throughout the U.S. and not brought in from the wild.
- More than 9.6 million animals (56% of dogs and 71% of cats) that enter pounds or animal shelters each year are euthanized because they were neither claimed by owners nor adopted by others. More cats are euthanized than dogs because they are more likely to enter a shelter without owner identification.
- Only 15% of dogs and 2% of cats that enter animal shelters are claimed or reunited with their owners. Approximately 4% of dogs and 3% of cats, that would otherwise be euthanized and were already scheduled for euthanasia, are released to research each year in the United States.
- There are approximately 56 million cats and 54 million dogs in the U.S. and it is estimated that every hour more than 2,000 dogs and 3,500 cats are born.
- Wildlife biologists estimate that over 1 million animals are killed every day by automobiles.

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers from the American Humane Association; the USDA/APHIS FY 2004 Animal Welfare Report; Wall Street Journal, August 1, 2002. "In the Headlights: As Man and Beast Clash on Highways, Both Sides Lose." Page A1;