

Recognition and Alleviation of Pain and distress in laboratory animals(Position statement)

By American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

The Animal welfare act provided for the formation of the IACUC(Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees). This committee evaluates research protocols involving animals to make sure that animals are necessary to accomplish the goals of the research. Similar to a Nuremberg code, alternatives to studies that may cause pain to animals must have been sought. If the studies are deemed necessary by the IACUC, then appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate any pain suffered by the animals. It goes without saying that an experienced DVM should be involved in the design and monitoring of any experiments involving animals, just as one would expect an MD to oversee a clinical trial.