

Responsible Use of Animals in Research

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) takes the position that the responsible use of animals is essential to biomedical research and education in the treatment and ultimate cure or prevention of diabetes mellitus.

ASSURANCES OF RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANIMALS—ADA requires assurances of the responsible use of animals in research by requiring the following:

1. ADA grantee institutions must meet standards equivalent to those of the U.S. Public Health Service, including the following categories that pertain to the care and use of animals.

Personnel

- Care and use is carried out by qualified individuals.
- Supervision is carried out by a veterinarian trained in laboratory animal medicine.

Research

- Should use alternative methods to live animals when appropriate.
- Should be designed to yield needed information.
- Must use anesthesia for surgical intervention.
- Postprocedural care must minimize or relieve discomfort.
- Should avoid all unnecessary suffering, and must terminate if continuation would result in unnecessary pain or fear.
- Animals must be killed by currently acceptable methods.

Facilities and transportation

- Must be in compliance with current federal, state, and local requirements and guidelines.
2. Grant applications submitted to ADA or its affiliates that propose the use of animals must be reviewed and approved by an institutional animal care and use committee before review by an ADA research review committee. It is recommended that the animal care

and use committee include a non-scientist and a member of the public.

Accreditation by the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) and/or other verifiable assurances must be provided to be certain that the animal facilities, including staffing, meet appropriate standards. The institutional and ADA research committees are responsible for determining that the proposed research is necessary, meets ethical considerations, and can be conducted effectively. The principal investigator has the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of research, including the appropriate care and management of the animals throughout the course of the experiments.

3. The Instruction for Authors section of all ADA journals should include the following statements

For experimental animals, state the species, strain, number used, and other pertinent descriptive characteristics. For human subjects or patients, describe their characteristics. When describing surgical procedures on animals, identify the preanesthetic and anesthetic agents used and state the amount or concentration and the route and frequency of administration for each. The use of paralytic agents, such as curare or succinylcholine, is not an acceptable substitute for anesthetics. For other invasive procedures on animals, report the analgesic or tranquilizing drugs used; if none was used, provide justification for such exclusion. When reporting studies on unanesthetized animals or on humans, indicate that the procedures followed were in accordance with institutional guidelines.

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