

Animal Welfare

Although the recipient institution and investigator bear the major responsibility for proper care and use of animals, NIH relies on its staff, SRGs, and Advisory Councils to review research activities for compliance with the PHS policy for the care and use of vertebrate animals. Care and use of vertebrate animals in funded projects must conform to applicable law and policy. The general intent of the law and policy can be summarized as two broad rules:

- The project should be worthwhile and justified on the basis of anticipated results for the good of society and the contribution to knowledge, and the work should be planned and performed by qualified scientists.
- Animals should not be confined, restrained, transported, cared for, or used in experimental procedures in a manner to inflict any unnecessary discomfort, pain, or injury.

For projects involving animals, the species used is separately identified at the end of the “Description” in the summary statement. Any comments or concerns that members have regarding treatment and welfare of research animals used in the project are explained in a separate paragraph in the summary statement. Any questions Council members may have should be directed to National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) staff.

No research involving animals may be conducted or supported by NIH until the institution proposing the research has provided a written assurance acceptable to NIH.

SRGs assign the following codes to applications to indicate their judgment as to compliance with these concerns (codes appear on the summary statement):

VERTEBRATE ANIMAL CODES

Code 10	No Live Vertebrate Animals Involved
Code 30	Live Vertebrate Animals Involved, no SRG Comments or Concerns
Code 44	Animals Involved - Certified - SRG Concerns
Code 45	Animals Involved - No Assurance - No SRG Comments or Concerns
Code 47	Animals Involved - No Assurance, SRG Comments
Code 49	Animals Involved - No Assurance, SRG Concerns