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Pharmacy 476 Vertebrate Animals

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Objectives

- Discuss the importance of the use of animals in research
- Review the guidelines for the ethical use of animals in research

Definitions

The US Public Health Service (PHS)
 policy defines animal as any live,
 vertebrate animal used or intended for
 use in research, research training,
 experimentation or biological testing or
 for related purposes.

Use of Animals in Research

- Scientific and medical knowledge developed through animal research has saved countless lives, has improved human and animal health, and has alleviated pain and suffering
- Judicious use of animals in research, education, and testing in the interests of human and animal welfare are important
- The University of Michigan insists on humane and ethical treatment of any animals used in research, education, and testing

Rules and Laws

- There are legal and ethical responsibilities to ensure that animals are not used needlessly and are spared all unnecessary pain and distress
- There are federal, state, local, and institutional laws or guidelines that govern animal research
 - non-compliance can result in loss of funding and legal action

Rules and Laws

- The University's Committee on Use and Care of Animals (UCUCA) provides supervision, coordination, and review of every project that proposes to include the use of animals
- The committee is comprised of:
 - scientists, non-scientists, and public members to encourage representation of diverse viewpoints

Rules and Laws

- This Committee has the responsibility to approve, to require modification of, or to prohibit a project's use of vertebrate animals
- Well-established procedures, similar to those used to monitor human subject research, are used for reviewing and monitoring animal research, education, and testing that is conducted at the university

Federal Oversight

- Public Health Service- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
 - Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
 - has the responsibility for the general administration and coordination of the policy, provides specific guidance, instruction, and materials to institutions that must comply with the policy
 - institutions must be in compliance in order to receive federal research funding

Investigator Responsibilities

- Describe proposed use of animals in grant applications and/or research proposals
- Obtain UCUCA approval prior to initiating experiments
- Ensure the research is conducted in accordance with the approved protocol
- Comply with institutional policies and procedures
- Address significant changes in the animal protocol

Investigator Responsibilities

- Proposals involving the use of vertebrates must include a discussion of 4 points regarding the use and treatment of animals:
 - 1) a justification for the use of animals the choice of species, and the numbers to be used
 - 2) description of the veterinary care
 - 3) a description of procedures for minimizing pain and distress
 - 4) a description of and rationale for the method of euthanasia

Proposal

- If your proposal involves the use of vertebrate animals this section should address the following:
 - identify the species, strains, ages, sex and numbers of animals to be used in the proposed work
 - justify the use of animals, the choice of species, and the numbers to be used
 - provide information on the veterinary care of the animals and describe the procedures for ensuring that discomfort, distress, pain and injury will be minimized
 - describe any method of euthanasia to be used and the reason(s) for its selection

Proposal

- Acceptable statements for:
 - the veterinary care of animals and the procedures for ensuring that discomfort, distress, pain and injury will be minimized
 - methods of euthanasia to be used and the reason(s) for its selection
- An example can be found on CTools

Other Issues

- Cell culture
- Stored or enduring human specimens
 - including DNA
- Collectively, issues that pertain to human subjects and the use of animals, established cell lines, and existing samples or data involve a number of ethical issues that are VERY important to ensure the integrity of the research



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