



Position Statement

Animal Welfare Definition

Laboratory animal welfare is an ethical responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, clinical and behavioral management, nutrition, disease management and treatment, responsible care and use, humane handling, and, when necessary, humane euthanasia. Responsible care and use, in the context of laboratory animal welfare and the use of animals for scientific purposes, includes a commitment to avoid unnecessary pain, distress, and discomfort. To the extent possible, application and assessment of animal welfare should be based on objective measures that have undergone hypothesis testing and withstood rigorous multidisciplinary peer review. ASLAP endorses the AVMA's distinction between animal welfare and animal rights.

Proposed July 17, 2005 by the ASLAP Animal Welfare Committee
Approved July 17, 2005 by the ASLAP Board