



Position Statement

Use of Class B Dealers

Class B is a category of licensed animal dealer which does not breed the animals that the dealer sells and hence does not own the sire and dam of those animals. In the case of dogs and cats, Class B dealers purchase or broker animals from pounds, shelters, or other credible sources and then resell those animals to research facilities and other entities. This same Class B classification applies to dealers of other species (e.g., nonhuman primates) who act as middlemen for the sale of animals obtained from Class A sources both within and from outside the United States. A Class A Dealer is one whose business consists of animals that are bred and raised on the premises.

It is recognized that there are certain circumstances when the use of Class B dealer supplied animals is justified. For example, the purchase of animals from Class B dealers may be required to meet a specific research need, such as the requirement for a diversified genetic background, a requirement for the use of older animals, or a requirement for the use of larger dogs not available through suppliers of purpose-bred laboratory dogs. The need for random source animals is recognized especially where their use is important to more accurately reflect existing domestic populations.

Some Class B dealers have been implicated in unscrupulous, inhumane, and illegal activities in the course of their businesses. ASLAP condemns such activities unequivocally. ASLAP supports the use of animals from Class B dealers when each receiving institution ensures that all animals from Class B dealers have been legally obtained, are healthy, and are accompanied by proper documentation. The USDA operates a system of licensing and oversight of most species used in biomedical research including those provided by Class B dealers. Research institutions and the USDA share a strong commitment to preventing the inadvertent introduction of pets into the research enterprise. To that end, all random source dogs and cats should be checked for any unique identifying features and scanned for electronic identification using a universal scanner, and research institutions are encouraged to implement a process for evaluating dealers of USDA covered species.

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