



## ASLAP Animal Care Principles

The American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP) endorses the core philosophies of humane animal care and use, as defined in the “U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training” and the “AVMA Animal Welfare Guiding Principles”. The members of ASLAP appreciate that scientific advancements are made possible by the conscientious use of live animals in research, testing, and teaching. Of equal importance, ASLAP members understand that the use of animals in these endeavors is a privilege, which imparts unique responsibilities and challenges to those entrusted with their oversight and care. Preservation of this trust requires knowledge, compassion, and an ongoing commitment to protect the health and welfare of laboratory animals in our charge. To fulfill these duties and reinforce all efforts to improve the welfare of animals used in research, testing, and teaching, we advocate and adhere to the following professional principles.

1. Animals must be provided a safe physical and social environment that is consistent with their physiological and behavioral needs.
2. Animals must be provided, at a minimum, potable water and/or other potable fluids and a diet that meets their fundamental nutritional requirements. Liquid and solid components of the diet should be appropriate to maintain good health.
3. Animals must be provided a basic standard of medical care for all health issues, including those related to research, and which is consistent with current veterinary medical practice and care.
4. The welfare of animals must be managed to minimize unavoidable pain and distress that may be a consequence of the research process by constantly refining research methods, reducing the total number of animals used, and replacing live animals with suitable alternatives whenever possible.
5. Individuals responsible for the care and use of laboratory animals must be adequately trained and experienced in current standards of care and the ethical treatment of laboratory animals.
6. When predetermined endpoints have been achieved or when pain or distress can no longer be alleviated, animals must be provided a humane death using techniques consistent with current veterinary medical standards.
7. Adequate resources and institutional support must be available to ensure adherence to these basic principles and to empower those to whom the duties of oversight and animal care are delegated.
8. Exceptions to these principles can only be made when scientifically justified and when approved by the legally mandated oversight authority of the institution’s animal care and use program, as sanctioned by the institutional official.

*December 23, 2008 Approved by the ASLAP Board*