



## ISSUE STATEMENT

### **Guiding Principles in the Use of Animals in Toxicology**

*Originally Adopted July 1989; Revision Adopted July 2016*

1. The [Code of Ethics](#) of the Society of Toxicology states that each member shall observe the spirit as well as the letter of the laws, regulations, and ethical standards with regard to the welfare of humans and animals involved in any experimental procedures.
2. The use, care, and transportation of animals for toxicologic research, training, and testing for the purpose of protecting human and animal health and the environment must comply with the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, produced by the National Research Council; the US Animal Welfare Act; the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service; Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International; or all applicable animal welfare laws in the members' home country.
3. When scientifically appropriate, alternative procedures that reduce the number of animals used, refine the use of whole animals, or replace whole animals (e.g., *in vitro* models, invertebrate organisms) are encouraged, in compliance with the principles of 3Rs (replacement, reduction, and refinement).
4. For research requiring the use of animals, the species should be carefully selected and the number of animals kept to the minimum required to achieve scientifically appropriate and valid results.
5. All reasonable steps should be taken to avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, or pain of animals.
6. If a surgical procedure is required, then appropriate aseptic techniques, pre-emptive analgesia, anesthesia, and postoperative analgesia should be provided. Muscle relaxants or paralytics are not to be used in place of anesthetics.
7. Care, handling, and use of all animals for research purposes must be directed by veterinarians or individuals experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied. Veterinary care is to be provided in a timely manner when needed.

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8. Investigators and other personnel shall be qualified and trained appropriately for conducting procedures on living animals, including training in the proper and humane care and use of laboratory animals.
9. Protocols involving the use of animals are to be reviewed and approved by an institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) or relevant animal ethics committee. The composition and function of the committee shall be in compliance with applicable national and local animal welfare laws, regulations, guidelines, and policies.
10. Euthanasia shall be conducted according to the most current guidelines of the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia or similar bodies in other countries.

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