



# **Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition**

*Committee for the Update of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Institute for Laboratory  
Animal Research, Division on Earth and Life Studies, National Research Council*

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A respected resource for decades, the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* has been updated by a committee of experts, taking into consideration input from the scientific and laboratory animal communities and the public at large. The *Guide* incorporates new scientific information on common laboratory animals, including aquatic species, and includes extensive references. It is organized around major components of animal use:

**Key concepts of animal care and use.** The *Guide* sets the framework for the humane care and use of laboratory animals.

**Animal care and use program.** The *Guide* discusses the concept of a broad Program of Animal Care and Use, including roles and responsibilities of the Institutional Official, Attending Veterinarian and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

**Animal environment, husbandry, and management.** A chapter on this topic is now divided into sections on terrestrial and aquatic animals and provides recommendations for housing and environment, husbandry, behavioral and population management, and more.

**Veterinary care.** The *Guide* discusses veterinary care and the responsibilities of the Attending Veterinarian. It includes recommendations on animal procurement and transportation, preventive medicine (including animal biosecurity), and clinical care and management. The *Guide* addresses distress and pain recognition and relief, and issues surrounding euthanasia.

**Physical plant.** The *Guide* identifies design issues, providing construction guidelines for functional areas; considerations such as drainage, vibration and noise control, and environmental monitoring; and specialized facilities for animal housing and research needs.

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* provides a framework for the judgments required in the management of animal facilities. This updated and expanded resource of proven value will be important to scientists and researchers, veterinarians, animal care personnel, facilities managers, institutional administrators, policy makers involved in research issues, and animal welfare advocates.

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