PRINCIPLES FOR THE CARE
AND USE OF ANIMALS

Approved September 3, 1979 by the Council of
Representatives, American Psychological Association

An investigator of animal behavior strives to advance our understanding of basic behavioral principles and to contribute to the improvement of human health and welfare. In seeking these ends, the investigator should ensure the welfare of the animals and should treat them humanely. Laws and regulations notwithstanding, the animal's immediate protection depends upon the scientist's own conscience. For this reason, the American Psychological Association has adopted the following Principles to guide individuals in their use of animals in research, teaching, and practical applications. All research conducted by members of the American Psychological Association or published in its journals must conform to these Principles.

1. The acquisition, care, use, and disposal of all animals shall be in compliance with current federal, state or provincial, and local laws and regulations.

2. A scientist trained in research methods and experienced in the care of laboratory animals shall closely supervise all procedures involving animals and be responsible for insuring appropriate consideration of their comfort, health, and humane treatment.

3. Scientists shall insure that all individuals using animals under their supervision have received explicit instruction in experimental methods and in the care, maintenance, and handling of the species being used. Responsibilities and activities of individuals shall be consistent with their respective competencies.

4. Scientists shall make every effort to minimize discomfort, illness, and pain to the animals. A procedure subjecting animals to pain, stress, or privation shall be used only when an alternative procedure is unavailable and the goal is justified by its prospective scientific, educational, or applied value. Surgical procedures shall be performed under appropriate anesthesia; techniques to avoid infection and minimize pain must be followed during and after surgery. Euthanasia shall be prompt and humane.

5. Investigators are strongly urged to consult with the Committee on Animal Research and Experimentation at any stage preparatory to or during a research project for advice about the appropriateness of research procedures or ethical issues related to experiments involving animals. Concerned individuals with any questions concerning adherence to the Principles should consult with the Committee.

6. Apparent violations of these Principles shall be reported immediately to the facility supervisor whose signature appears below:

Name: __________________________________________________________
Position: _______________________________________________________
Phone: _________________________________________________________

If a satisfactory resolution is not achieved, a report should be made to the responsible institutional authority designated below:

Name: _________________________________________________________
Position: _______________________________________________________
Phone: _________________________________________________________

Unresolved allegations of serious or repeated violations should be referred to the APA Committee on Animal Research and Experimentation.

7. These Principles shall be conspicuously posted in every laboratory, teaching facility, and applied setting where animals are being used. All persons in each laboratory, classroom, or applied facility shall indicate by signature and date on the attached sheet that they have read these Principles.

Committee on Animal Research
and Experimentation
Board of Scientific Affairs
American Psychological Association
1200 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

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