

Purpose

The purpose for the Research Facility Inspection Guide, a major component of the Animal Care Resource Guide, is to provide APHIS Animal Care personnel with a clear, concise, user-friendly reference for inspecting USDA registered research facilities.

By facilitating the inspection process, the Research Facility Inspection Guide will serve as a useful tool to improve the quality and uniformity of inspections, documentation, and enforcement of the Animal Care Program.

Philosophy

The Research Facility Inspection Guide is designed to *facilitate* the decision-making process. It cannot - nor is it intended to - replace the inspector's professional judgment.

Scope

The content of the Research Facility Inspection Guide was gleaned from pertinent sections of Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR) and current Animal Care policies. Applicable information was restated or paraphrased as necessary for clarity and formatted and organized to facilitate access and use.

The Research Facility Inspection Guide *summarizes* current regulatory and policy criteria for USDA registered research facilities and provides a logical inspection process for verifying compliance. It does *not* add to, delete from, or change current regulatory requirements or standards - nor does it establish policy.