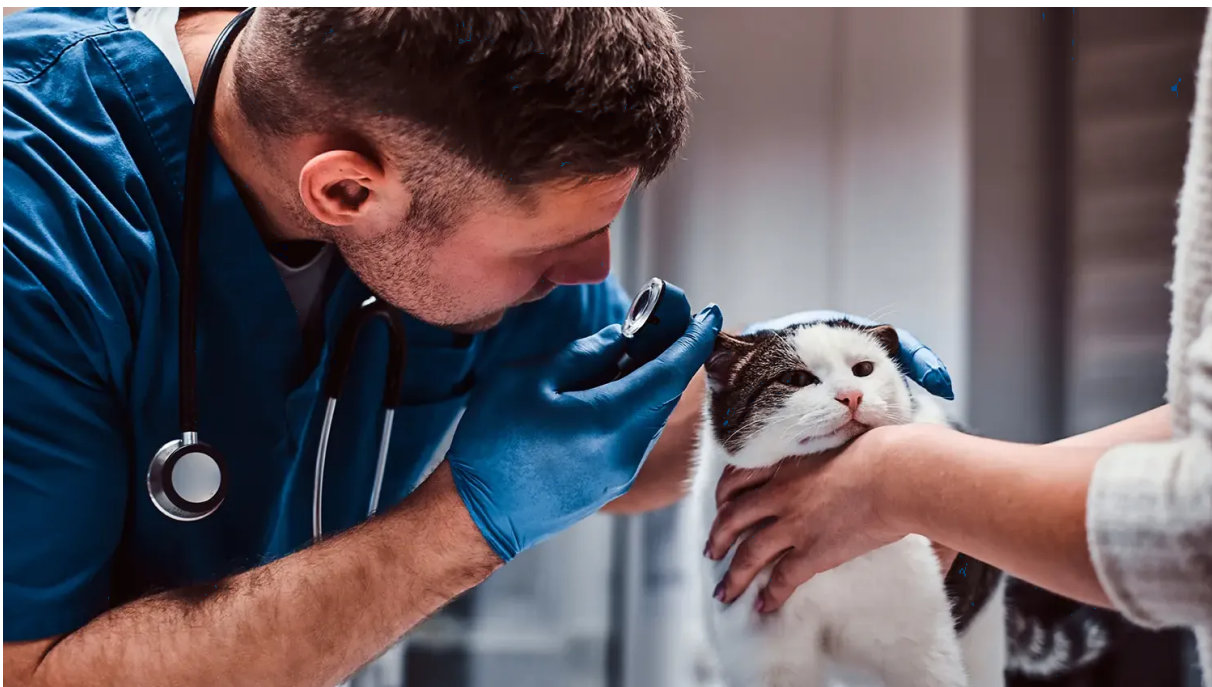


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Understanding APHIS Oversight of Research Facilities

Last Modified:



APHIS Animal Care is responsible for ensuring the humane care and treatment of certain animals used in research. This page is a resource for registrants to find information and training on how we evaluate compliance with the Animal Welfare Act Regulations at research facilities.

About Our Regulatory Authority

APHIS' authority comes from the [Animal Welfare Act \(AWA\)](#), the primary Federal law that sets standards for the housing, handling, veterinary care, and overall well-being of animals covered by the Act. Under the AWA, we register and oversee research facilities that use regulated species, including dogs, cats, nonhuman primates, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and other warmblooded animals, ensuring they meet the requirements designed to protect animal welfare.

APHIS develops and enforces the regulations and standards that implement the AWA—covering the humane care, handling, treatment, and transportation of regulated animals. The AWA and its implementing regulations and standards are compiled in a single comprehensive publication commonly known as the “[Blue Book](#).” The Blue Book provides facilities such as research institutions, dealers, exhibitors, carriers, and intermediate handlers with a clear set of requirements they must follow to ensure animals receive humane care.

Training Materials and Resources

APHIS Training for Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs)

[New Inspector Training: Research Facilities](#)

[Four-part presentation series on how to evaluate compliance with the AWA Regulations at research facilities.](#)

[Annual Report Review Quick Guide for VMOs](#)

[\(PDF, 151.13 KB\)](#)

[Instructions for APHIS VMOs on reviewing annual reports submitted by research registrants.](#)

■

New Inspector Training: Research Facilities

- [Part 1: Understanding the Research Environment](#)
- [Part 2: Research Regulations](#)
- [Part 3: Research Facility Inspection Procedures](#)
- [Part 4: Research Records Review](#)

APHIS Guidance and Other USDA Resources for Research Facilities

[Video: Complying With the Animal Welfare Regulations in Research](#)

[APHIS Training for Institutional Care and Use Committees \(IACUCs\)](#)

[Tech Note: Categorizing Animal Pain or Distress in Research Facility Annual Reports](#)

[APHIS Guidance Document](#)

[Tech Note: Research With Free-Living Wild Animals in Their Natural Habitat and the Animal Welfare Act](#)

[APHIS Guidance Document](#)

[Brochure: 3Rs Alternatives Literature Searching](#)

[USDA Informational Resource](#)

[Website: Animal Welfare Information Center \(AWIC\)](#)

[USDA Informational Resource](#)

External Links and Training

[The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare \(OLAW\)](#)



[AAALAC International](#)



[Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research \(PRIM&R\)](#)



[American Association for Laboratory Animal Science \(AALAS\)](#)



[NAS: Standing Committee on Animal Health, Conservation, and Research](#)



[Scientists Center for Animal Welfare \(SCAW\)](#)



[IACUC 101 Series](#)



[IACUC Administrators Association \(IACUCAA\)](#)



Have questions about APHIS oversight of research facilities or related topics?

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