Love animals? Support animal research. (whaat!?) Is it possible to do both? If someone you know is dying of cancer, yes. If a pet animal is suffering from a rare disease, yes. And if you work in research, of course! (More about that later.) But if you’re on the fence or haven’t thought about it, please turn the page. →
ANIMAL TESTING AND RESEARCH TODAY

Animal testing is one of the most crucial steps in developing new treatments and cures to improve health and well-being for all.

It’s a way to make sure new medicines we take or give to our companion animals are safe and effective.

It’s a method of perfecting surgical procedures such as deep brain stimulation so epileptic patients can have a more normal life.

And yes, it’s a really complicated issue.

That’s why we’ve put together this brochure. To help all Americans understand the goals, benefits, and regulation of research with animals.

We hope you’ll take the time to read it from cover to cover.
HOW ANIMAL RESEARCH HELPS HUMANS

When you’re ill or injured, virtually everything the doctor, nurse, paramedic, pharmacist, or other health care provider can give you was made possible by animal research.

These medications, medical devices, surgeries, treatments, and therapies include:

- Deep Brain Stimulation for Parkinson’s
- Insulin for diabetes
- Anti-Inflammatory Medications
- Kidney Dialysis
- Cold Medicines
- Antihistamines
- Decongestants
- First Aid Cream
- Laxatives
- CT Scans
- Tick-Borne Disease Antibiotics
- Antacids
- Athlete’s Foot Cream
- Allergy Medications
- Acetaminophens
- Yeast Infection Suppositories
- Contact Lenses
- Asthma Inhalers
- Blood Thinners
- Anti-Depressants
- Anti-Psychotics
- Blood Pressure Medicine
- Blood Transfusions
- Breast Cancer Medicines
- Cataract Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Coronary Bypass Operations
- Corneal Transplants
- Extrauterine Pregnancy Treatments
- Heart Transplants
- Heart Valve Replacements
- Heart-Lung Machines
- Hip Replacement Surgery
- Kidney Dialysis
- Kidney Transplants
- Leprosy Treatments
- Anesthesia
- Malaria Treatments
- Meningitis Vaccines
- Migraine Meds
- Monoclonal Antibodies
- Ringworm Pills
- HIV Drugs
- Ulcer Medications
- Open Heart Surgery
- Muscular Dystrophy Treatments
- Pacemakers
- Prostate Cancer Medicines
- Laparoscopic Surgery
- Treatment for Rickets
- RH Factor Antigen
- Transplant Rejection Drugs
- Arthroscopic Surgery
- Poison Ivy Cream
- Antibiotics for Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Infections
- A Wide Variety of Cholesterol Medications
- Penicillin.

Phew! That’s a lot to be grateful for. But it’s just a partial list. We’d have to use a font < THIS SIZE > to list on this page the thousands of other additional procedures and medications!
Animal research has improved and saved the lives of countless companion animals.

How?

Some notable examples include:

• Vaccines to prevent distemper, rabies, infectious hepatitis, tetanus, infectious diarrhea (parvovirus) and feline leukemia

• Technologies such as CAT scans, MRIs and ultrasound to help diagnose potentially deadly diseases

• Life-saving emergency care for dogs and cats run over by cars

• Advanced surgical procedures to treat joint and ligament distress in dogs and cats, plus organ transplants, and pacemaker implantation

• Nutritional products to help puppies and kittens grow into healthy dogs and cats
HEALTH PROBLEMS ANIMALS AND HUMANS SHARE

The list is a lot longer than you might imagine.


Botulism, bronchitis, cataracts, deafness, diabetes, epilepsy, and glaucoma.

Heart disease, hemophilia, hepatitis, hypertension, infertility, and influenza.

Leukemia, lung disease, lupus, Lyme disease, malaria, and measles.

Narcolepsy, nerve damage, rabies, rubella, scoliosis, and skin diseases.

Tetanus, tuberculosis, ulcers, and Yellow fever.

And of course the big C.

Did you know cancer is the most common cause of death in dogs?¹

Today, physicians and veterinarians are working together—sharing research results and other information—to find a cure for both species.²

Dogs can be so easy-going they may not show signs of cancer until it’s too late. So take yours for a “nose-to-tail” checkup every 12 months. It’s the surest way to detect medical problems early!
To see what's going on in America's research laboratories, turn the page →
IF YOU WORK IN A RESEARCH LAB...

...you’re part of a team of caring professionals.

From the associate animal care technician to the Nobel Prize-winning scientist, plus everyone in between—all make the physical, physiologic, and behavioral needs of lab animals a top priority.

Why?

• Because it’s the right thing to do.

• Because it’s good science. Well-treated animals provide more meaningful and reliable research results. More reliable research results could reduce the number of animals needed for research.

• Because it’s the law.

Scientists are guided by the 3R’s—REDUCE the number of animals used in testing, REFINEx procedures to minimize distress or pain. And REPLACE animal use with non-animal research methods whenever possible.
IF YOU LIVE IN A RESEARCH LAB...

...your housing was carefully designed to meet your specific needs.

The air you breathe is significantly cleaner than the air outside.

You’re not too hot or too cold because the temperature is monitored 24/7, including weekends and holidays.

You drink clean, purified water.

An expert nutritionist makes sure you’re eating right.

Plus if you’re a primate, you snack on fruits and veggies cut up by a food prep worker into bite-sized pieces.

LAB ANIMALS

ROUGHLY 95% ARE RODENTS
ABOUT 4 1/2% ZEBRA FISH, FRUIT FLIES, & OTHERS
ONLY ABOUT 1/2% ARE DOGS & CATS

Humane and responsible animal care standards are detailed in The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, issued by the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute for Laboratory Animal Research.¹
AMERICA’S RESEARCH REGULATIONS ARE AMONG THE STRICTEST ON THE PLANET

Animal research institutions must comply with multi-layered regulatory requirements of the federal Animal Welfare Act and the U.S. Public Health Service Act.

Among its mandates, anesthesia must be used for potentially painful procedures and painkillers must be used for postoperative care unless the research precludes it.

Some pain is unavoidable in certain procedures and cannot be alleviated.

For example, in research on pain relief for cancer patients, the animals endure some discomfort and distress.

Each institution must have an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to review research proposals and to ensure the use of animals is necessary.

Scientists must explain why alternatives like studying cells or conducting computer simulations won’t help them achieve their scientific goals. And they must assure committee members their research doesn’t duplicate previous studies unnecessarily.

Today, over 8,000 strains of laboratory mouse models are available to propel scientific research for improving human and animal health.
ANIMAL TESTING WITH DOGS

10 out of 10 of the most commonly prescribed drugs were developed with animals – 8 of which included dogs.

But humans aren’t the only beneficiaries. Many treatments initially developed for us help our pets, too. (Consider treatments for cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.) And today a number of studies directly benefit animals.

“But can’t you just use rats and mice?” you may ask. No, not really. You see, the path from concept to cure is complicated.

After using cell cultures, tissue samples and computers, investigators must incorporate animal models into their study.

Most start with mice and rats. When they get positive results, they advance to an animal model that more closely resembles humans. That’s where dogs usually come in.

Did you know we share more than 80 percent of our genes with dogs? 4 out of 5 genes. That’s precisely the reason why canines are so essential to medical research.

Dogs are much more than man’s best friend. They’re also man’s best research partner. These beagles live together and have playtime every day!
ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL RESEARCH

Scientists in the U.S.A., UK, and Germany have been working on this challenge for decades. Which is why there are more non-animal methods now than ever before!

For many safety and toxicity tests, sophisticated tissue models and cell cultures have replaced guinea pigs, rabbits, and mice.

“Organs on microchips” can be used in toxicity testing, disease research and evaluating new drugs.4

And with state-of-the-art computers, scientists test new drugs and biologics.

But supercomputers running sophisticated computer programs can’t accurately predict the weather, let alone accurately predict everything a new drug will do once inside you.

(sigh)

So for the time being, research with animals is still the surest path to discovering ways to prevent diabetes, better treatments for heart disease, and a cure for cancer.

Organ microchips are an exciting undertaking in its early stages. However, industry experts predict we’re 15-20 years away from this approach fully replacing animals.
ABOUT THIS BROCHURE

Thank you for taking the time to read it.

Scientists have made research discoveries with animal models that would not have been possible otherwise.

We think they deserve our support and trust.

If you agree, please share this with family and friends.

And if you post your thoughts online, be sure to add:

#LoveAnimalsSupportAnimalResearch
REFERENCES
WEBLINKS ACCESSED SEPTEMBER 2017


“Love Animals? Support Animal Research” is co-sponsored by the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS), the AALAS Foundation, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and the Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR).

All endorse carefully regulated research with laboratory animals. This research is essential to learning about the biology, treatment and prevention of diseases and conditions that cause suffering and death in people and animals.

AALAS is an association of professionals that advances responsible laboratory animal care and use to benefit people and animals.
aalas.org

The AALAS Foundation supports educational outreach on the essential role of responsible laboratory animal care and use in science to advance human and animal health.
aalasfoundation.org | care.aalas.org

The AVMA, founded in 1863, is one of the oldest and largest veterinary medical organizations in the world, with more than 89,500 member veterinarians worldwide engaged in a wide variety of professional activities and dedicated to the art and science of veterinary medicine.
avma.org

FBR is America’s most experienced, trusted and effective non-profit dedicated to improving human and animal health by promoting public understanding and support for biomedical research.
Our job is to insure research can continue in the most humane and responsible way possible without compromising the advancement of medicine to alleviate both human and animal suffering.
FBRResearch.org

To comply with legal guidelines and respect the privacy of others, many of the images used in this brochure are stock photos. We trust you’ll respect our editorial decision.