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 →
INTRODUCTION

Animal testing for medical advances (not for new beauty products) is a good thing. It’s a way to make sure the prescription drugs we take or give to our pets are effective and safe. 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 put together this booklet. To help everyone understand the goals, benefits, and regulation of animal research.

We hope you’ll take the time to read it from cover to cover.

Some people think animal research is conducted exclusively for our benefit. Actually it helps companion animals live longer, too!
HOW ANIMAL RESEARCH HELPS PEOPLE

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 the following:

- Anesthesia
- Antacids
- Antihistamines
- Asthma Inhalers
- Athlete’s Foot Cream
- Blood Pressure Medicine
- Chemotherapy
- Cholesterol Drugs
- Cold Medicines
- Contact Lenses
- CT Scans
- Deep Brain Stimulation For Parkinson’s
- First Aid Creams
- Heart Transplants
- Heart Valves
- Heart-Lung Machine
- Hemorrhoid Creams
- Hip Replacement Surgery
- HIV Drugs
- Insulin For Diabetes
- Kidney Dialysis
- Kidney Transplants
- Laxatives
- Migraine Medicines
- Pacemakers
- Penicillin
- Poison Ivy Cream
- Prostate Cancer Medicines
- Tick-borne Disease Antibiotics
- Transplant Rejection Drugs
- Ulcer Medications
- Vaccines for Cervical Cancer, Meningitis, Mumps, Tetanus, and Whooping Cough.

Phew. That’s a lot to be grateful for. But there’s much more! We’d have to use a font_tsubo_ to list all the other procedures and medications.
HOW ANIMAL RESEARCH HELPS PETS

Animal research has improved and saved the lives of countless companion animals.

Some prime examples are listed here:

• Vaccines to prevent distemper, feline leukemia, infectious diarrhea (parvovirus), infectious hepatitis, kennel cough, cat flu, rabies, and tetanus.

• Veterinary medicines for kidney problems, cancer, heart disease, infections, and pain.

• Technologies like ultrasound, CT, and MRI to help diagnose potentially deadly diseases.

• Life-saving emergency care for dogs and cats hit by cars.

• Advanced surgical procedures for organ transplants, pacemakers, and to treat joint and ligament distress in cats and dogs.

• Nutritional products to help puppies and kittens grow into healthy dogs and cats.
The list is a lot longer than you think.

Allergies, anemia, arthritis, and asthma.

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

With cancer, early detection is key! So take your best friend for a “nose-to-tail” checkup every 12 months.
To see what's going on in America's research institutions, turn the page ➔
LIVING CONDITIONS

• Living spaces are carefully designed to meet the specific needs of every lab animal species.

• Specially trained veterinarians oversee their well-being and medical care.

• Temperature is monitored 24/7, including weekends and holidays.

• Lab animals drink clean, filtered water.

• The air they breathe is significantly cleaner than the air inside our homes.

• They eat healthy because an expert nutritionist monitors their diet.

• Primates regularly snack on fruits and veggies cut into bite-sized pieces.

• And environmental enrichment (like the example shown here) helps promote psychological well-being.

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.³
Research scientists actively observe the three Rs:
• REDUCE the number of animals used in testing.
• REFINE procedures to minimize pain and distress.
• REPLACE animals with alternatives when possible.

LAB PEOPLE ❤ THEIR LAB ANIMALS

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 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 treating lab animals with the most dignity and compassion possible just comes naturally!
• And because it’s the law.
AMERICA’S RESEARCH REGULATIONS ARE AMONG THE STRICTEST ON THE PLANET

Research institutions must meet multi-layered regulatory requirements of the federal Animal Welfare Act and the US Public Health Service Act.

Among its many mandates, anesthetics must be used for potentially painful procedures. And painkillers are used after surgery unless the research doesn’t allow it.

For example, in a study of 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 computer simulations won’t help them achieve their scientific goals. And they must reassure committee members their research doesn’t duplicate previous studies unnecessarily.

There are more than 9,000 strains of laboratory mouse models available today to help scientists achieve their research goals.
ANIMAL RESEARCH WITH DOGS

The number of dogs involved in research is small (less than 1/2 percent). But their impact on health is enormous.

- 8 of the 10 most common prescription drugs were developed with dogs
- Many treatments initially developed for us also help our pets
- Today, a number of research studies benefits animals directly

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

After using cell cultures, tissue samples, and computers, investigators must add animal models to 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.

We share more than 4 out of 5 genes with dogs. Which is why canines are so essential to medical progress.

Dogs are more than man’s best friend. They’re also man’s best research partner. These beagles live together and have playtime every day!
Scientists in the US, 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. 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.

Industry experts predict organ microchips may fully replace animal models in 15-20 years.
SUMMARY

Research scientists have made medical 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 booklet with family and friends.

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

Many research institutions encourage staffers to adopt retired research dogs through vetted partners like Homes for Animal Heroes and proven programs such as Lab To Leash, a part of Beagle Rescue League.
The Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR) is America’s most experienced non-profit dedicated to improving human and animal health by educating the public and encouraging support for biomedical research.

Booklet co-sponsors are listed on the back cover. 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.

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REFERENCES

3 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK54052/

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Dr. Temple Grandin, Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University and renown animal welfare advocate, supports animal research.