



Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

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NIH Vertebrate Animal Guidance

December 2017

Who must complete the “Vertebrate Animals” attachment:

Include a “Vertebrate Animals” attachment if you answered “Yes” to the question “Are Vertebrate Animals Used?” on the R.220 - R&R Other Project Information Form.

Format:

Attach this information as a PDF file. See NIH's Format Attachments page.

Do not use this attachment to circumvent the page limits of the Research Strategy.

Content:

If live vertebrate animals are involved in the project, address each of the following criteria:

1. **Description of Procedures:** Provide a concise description of the proposed procedures to be used that involve live vertebrate animals in the work outlined in the “Research Strategy” attachment. The description must include sufficient detail to allow evaluation of the procedures. Identify the species, strains, ages, sex, and total numbers of animals by species, to be used in the proposed work. If dogs or cats are proposed, provide the source of the animals.
2. **Justifications:** Provide justification that the species are appropriate for the proposed research. Explain why the research goals cannot be accomplished using an alternative model (e.g. computational, human, invertebrate, in vitro).
3. **Minimization of Pain and Distress:** Describe the interventions including analgesia, anesthesia, sedation, palliative care and humane endpoints that will be used to minimize discomfort, distress, pain, and injury.

Each of the criteria must be addressed. Failure to adequately address the criteria may negatively affect the application’s impact score. In addition to the 3 criteria above, you should also:

- Identify all project performance (or collaborating) sites and describe the proposed research activities with vertebrate animals that will be conducted at those sites.
- Explain when and how animals are expected to be used if plans for the use of animals have not been finalized.

See the following pages for more information:

NIH’s [Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare](#) website

NIH’s [Vertebrate Animals Section Worksheet](#)

See the [NIH Grants Policy Statement, Section 4.1.1: Animal Welfare Requirements](#) (an applicable Animal Welfare Assurance will be required if the grantee institution does not have one)