
Preface

The objective of this manual is to provide a set of basic information to guide those conducting animal research towards acceptable experimental methods used in the industry as well as information that is important to the care and use of laboratory animals. This manual is aimed at making your work easier and better, while reducing the amount of pain and distress to the animals involved.

This manual will be useful not only to postgraduate students and researchers with little or basic knowledge of working with laboratory animals, but also to principal investigators, animal technicians, and anyone else involved in animal research work.

Whenever and wherever you carry out any animal research work, you must comply with the appropriate rules and regulations of the country you are working in. It is essential that you speak to the animal facility management and/or veterinarians, who can provide you with any in-house requirements and guidance where necessary.

I have outlined some of the regulations pertaining to laboratory animal research in this manual. However, such regulations change frequently and may be different for each country. Therefore, it is best to check with the animal facility, which can provide you with an up-to-date copy of the regulations

applicable to the country you are working in, to ensure that you are in full compliance with the laws and guidelines of that country.

I have included in this manual some experimental techniques that are widely accepted as good practices in the industry at this time. These are techniques that I have been teaching for many years, as they tend to be the easiest to master and, in my opinion, cause the least discomfort to animals. There are a number of other techniques that are used and, although they may not be covered in this book, they may well be techniques that could be used successfully.

I would like to end by wishing you all the best for your research, and to remind you that animal care and welfare is paramount to good experimental data. Please consider carefully the 3R's and the ethical implications of using animals for research before you start, and always treat the animals being used with the utmost compassion and respect that they deserve.

Yours sincerely,
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