

Who Monitors the Use of Animals in Research?

- **United States Department of Agriculture -Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-Aphis)**
 - Mission: “To ensure that animals intended for use in research facilities or for exhibition purposes or for use as pets are provided humane care and treatment”
 - Definition of Animal (limited)
 - Animals-all warm blooded species except birds, rats and mice, and farm animals used for production
- Majority of research animals (>90%) are rats and mice.
- USDA monitors the use of less than 10% of animals-primarily pigs, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, goats, sheep, cattle, horses, dogs and cats.

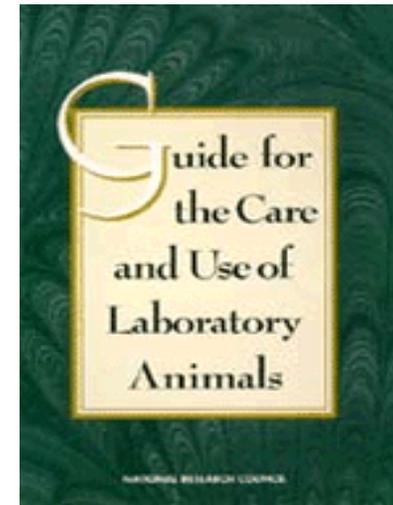
Who oversees the use of all animals; especially rodents?



- **Public Health Service Policy** requires:
 - Institutions receiving federal funding submit an *Assurance statement* to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
 - States that the institution is committed to following the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide)*.

The Guide

- ❑ Guide provides details as to the type of housing, veterinary medical care for animals
- ❑ Guide also defines how animal care and use protocols must be reviewed by a designated committee
- ❑ Animal defined as “any vertebrate animal used in research, teaching or testing”.



Procedures to Monitor Animal Care & Use

- The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must inspect and evaluate its facilities and programs at least twice a year.
- The USDA inspects “covered species” annually and more frequently if there is an issue or complaint
- You must allow a USDA inspector access to your facility at anytime
- AAALAC (Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International) accredited facilities are inspected by representatives every 3 years
- Annual reports are sent to regulatory agencies and AAALAC regarding the use of animals

IACUC



- **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or IACUC**
 - a committee to oversee and evaluate the institution's animal program, procedures and facilities
 - Review all protocols describing animal use; procedures may not begin until protocols are approved.
 - IACUCs derive their authority from the law (USDA/OLAW)
 - At a minimum it must include a minimum of 3 people:
 - a veterinarian trained in laboratory animal medicine
 - one practicing scientist
 - at least one community member
 - Federally Funded (minimum of 5)-3 above, and non-scientist and Chair.

The Three R's



- **REDUCE**-the number of animals needed to meet research goals. Typically a “power analysis” is done to determine the minimum number of animals required per experimental group.
- **REFINE**-finding a better way to achieve a research result. Improving an assay so that it is more humane (requiring fewer blood collections or anesthetic events)
- **REPLACE**- Replace animals with other models or techniques e.g.. Screening pharmaceutical compounds in the laboratory prior to testing in an animal model