



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 115,000 Researchers

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FASEB Statement on Adoption and Retirement of Research Animals

As a coalition of 28 member societies comprised of over 115,000 biomedical scientists that support the humane use of laboratory animals in biomedical research, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) recognizes the value and importance of appropriate animal accommodation upon completion of research studies. While many studies require humane euthanasia, FASEB supports the adoption and retirement of clinically healthy research animals into private homes or sanctuaries where feasible, provided that animal welfare is maintained and in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations, Public Health Service (PHS) Policy, and state and local laws.

Federal agencies have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to animal welfare, including potential adoption and retirement of research animals. The USDA [Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations](#) offers institutions the option to develop an adoption policy, and the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) [supports](#) adoption so long as the safety and protection of animals are upheld. FASEB recognizes that adoption may not be appropriate for all species due to certain health conditions or potential risks to humans, particularly if a new environment jeopardizes the animal's welfare and/or species-typical behaviors. Therefore, FASEB strongly encourages stakeholders to consider various factors when preparing policies and defining eligibility for research animal retirement or adoption, consistent with the [guidelines](#) set forth by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. This includes approval by the institutional Attending Veterinarian to determine the animal's health condition and ability to travel.

FASEB acknowledges Congress's recent legislative proposals to mandate post-research adoption at federal agencies. While we fully support the placement of healthy and socially adjusted animals in suitable locations, these bills fail to consider the financial, administrative, and public health elements associated with animal adoption and retirement, including transport fees, specialized housing and care, and relevant healthcare documentation management. As part of the biomedical research community's commitment to the highest animal welfare standards, new policy and legislative proposals concerning animal adoption and retirement must consider all veterinary, financial, and logistical factors to prioritize the safety and well-being of research animals as well as humans.

Full members: The American Physiological Society • American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology • American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics • American Society for Investigative Pathology • American Society for Nutrition • The American Association of Immunologists • American Association for Anatomy • Society for Developmental Biology • Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities • The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research • American Society for Clinical Investigation • Society for the Study of Reproduction • The Endocrine Society • American College of Sports Medicine • Genetics Society of America • The Histochemical Society • Society for Glycobiology • Association for Molecular Pathology • Society for Redox Biology and Medicine • Society For Experimental Biology and Medicine • American Aging Association • Society of Toxicology • Society for Leukocyte Biology • American Federation for Medical Research • Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society • Shock Society • **Associate members:** The American Society of Human Genetics • The Society for Birth Defects Research & Prevention