Preface

The use of animals is essential for any institution dedicated to research, testing, and education in the biomedical sciences. Investigations involving animals yield much of the scientific knowledge that is fundamental to our understanding of disease, and they are essential for developing more effective approaches for diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Although other techniques are available and continue to be developed, animal models remain essential for biomedical research.

The use of animals in research, testing, and teaching carries with it moral, scientific, and legal obligations for the humane care and treatment of the subjects. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) plays a central role in the organization of the animal care and use program, and is essential to the University's continued compliance with the various laws and regulations that ensure that animal welfare is maintained. To further support and educate members of the University community who use animal based models for teaching or research, this Research Practice Fundamentals Module 3 has been prepared. The module contains a range of information and resources necessary to employ animals in research and teaching ethically and in accordance with University policies and Federal regulations. By participating in this training, each member of the University community will help support the University of Pittsburgh's commitment to the humane care and use of research animals.

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