

## TASK FORCE ON THE USE OF ANIMALS IN VETERINARY EDUCATION

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## BACKGROUND

*The AAVMC Board of Directors established the Task Force on the Use of Animals in Veterinary Education, in July 2021, with the charge of developing recommendations to the Board. The Task Force recommended the development of guidelines for AAVMC member institutions. The draft was distributed to the AAVMC Assembly and AAVMC Academic Affairs Committee, in August 2022, with request to distribute to the key faculty/staff members for review and comment. The AAVMC Guidelines 4d(9) Pr 6.23*

Animal use within veterinary education should provide professional level opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat medical, surgical, and behavioral conditions in animals in a way that is humane, respectful, and welfare appropriate for all animals used in the educational process.

Animal use should be guided by 4 Rs (replacement, reduction, refinement, and respect) and must be compliant with applicable laws and regulations. Veterinary institutions should critically evaluate all animal use to determine if it is necessary to achieve educational outcomes. Institutions should explore and implement alternatives where appropriate to minimize animal use while maintaining student competence.

Institutions should establish a formal policy for the critical evaluation of animal source and use as part of the educational mission. Institutions should demonstrate transparency by reviewing, presenting, and discussing information about the source and use of all animals, cadaver and live, with students, faculty, and staff at least annually.

## CADAVER ACQUISITION AND USE

Institutions using cadavers in teaching should:

1. Implement respectful methods of cadaver acquisition, use, and final disposition appropriate to local context and culture.
2. Implement a policy for auditing and evaluating cadaver use; implementing replacement, reduction, and refinement of use where appropriate and possible; and reporting to the institution's senior