



BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA

Position Statement

USE OF DOGS IN RESEARCH

The Bulldog Club of America recognizes the invaluable contributions to both human and veterinary medical knowledge and practices that have resulted from medical research and testing on animal subjects, including dogs and supports the research and development of safe and efficacious drugs, vaccines, chemical compounds, and medical devices that benefit humans and animals through humane and responsible safety testing, using scientifically valid principles and procedures.

The BCA supports research, development, and validation of alternative research and testing methods that replace animals, reduce the numbers of animals used, and/or refine animal use to minimize pain and/or distress. The BCA endorses activities that are designed to evaluate the scientific validity of new alternative research and test methods. However, the BCA supports the protection of human and animal health and will continue to oppose activities that seek to eliminate animal-based safety assessments that are not based on sound scientific principles.

The BCA also recognizes that humane care of animals used in research and testing is an integral part of those activities. In keeping with these concerns, the BCA endorses the principles embodied in the "Three R" tenet of Russell and Burch (1959). These principles are: refinement of experimental methods to eliminate or reduce animal pain and distress; reduction of the number of animals consistent with sound experimental design; and replacement of animals with non-animal methods wherever feasible.

The use of animals in research and testing is a privilege carrying with it unique professional, scientific, and moral obligations, and ethical responsibilities. The BCA encourages proper stewardship of all animals, but defends and promotes the use of animals in meaningful research and testing programs. The BCA also strongly believes that individuals who utilize dogs in testing should bear full responsibility for ascertaining the source of their dogs and for assuring that suppliers comply with federal, state and local regulations.

The BCA condemns all acts of violence, vandalism, or intimidation directed toward individuals, facilities, or tertiary organizations affiliated with the use of animals in research and testing.