

## **USAFA Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

An IACUC is responsible for assessment and oversight of the institution's Program components and facilities. The principle is that all who care for, use, or produce animals for research, testing, or teaching must assume responsibility for their well-being.

**Laboratory animals or animals.** Any vertebrate animal (e.g., traditional laboratory animals, agricultural animals, wildlife, and aquatic species) produced for or used in research, testing, or teaching.

**Animal Use.** The proper care, use, and humane treatment of laboratory animals produced for or used in research, testing, or teaching.

**The Guide.** The primary reference that plays an important role in decision making when caring for animals. It establishes the minimum ethical, practice, and care standards for researchers and institutions. The goal of the *Guide* is to promote the humane care and use of laboratory animals by providing information that will enhance animal-well-being, quality of research, and the advancement of scientific knowledge that is relevant to both humans and animals.

**Replacement, refinement, and reduction.** The three "Rs" researchers must apply when considering experimental design in laboratory animal research. (Russell and Burch 1959).

**The Program.** The activities conducted by and at an institution that have a direct impact on the well-being of animals, including animal and veterinary care, policies and procedures, personnel and program management and oversight, occupational health and safety, IACUC functions, and animal facility design and management. The USAFA program is composed of an Institutional Official (IO), attending veterinarian (AV) and the IACUC with membership.

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