



United States Department of Agriculture

Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)

A service of the
USDA, ARS, National Agricultural Library

Presented by: Kristina Adams
Coordinator, AWIC
Chief, Digital Library Branch



United States Department of Agriculture

AWIC Provides 3Rs Information

[7 U.S.C. 2142, Sec. 13, Subsection e]

The Secretary [of Agriculture] shall establish an information service at the National Agricultural Library. Such service shall, in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine, provide information—

- (1) pertinent to **employee training**;
- (2) which could **prevent unintended duplication** of animal experimentation as determined by the needs of the research facility; and
- (3) on **improved methods** of animal experimentation, including methods which could--
 - (A) **reduce or replace** animal use; and
 - (B) **minimize pain and distress** to animals, such as anesthetic and analgesic procedures.

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Animal Welfare Information Center

The **Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)** is mandated by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to provide information for improved animal care and use in research, testing, and teaching.



Social Housing of Laboratory Animals

Information about pair and group housing of common animals used in research.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic>



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Mandatory and Regulatory Testing

- [Testing Regulations and Guidelines](#) [Ⓔ], *National Toxicology Program*.
- [Alternative Methods Accepted by US Agencies](#) [Ⓔ], *Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM)*.

[Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Evaluation of Alternative Methods \(ICCVAM\)](#) [Ⓔ]
ICCVAM and its supporting center, NICEATM (the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods), coordinate the development, validation, acceptance, and harmonization of alternative toxicological test methods throughout the United States Federal government.

[European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing \(EURL ECVAM\)](#) [Ⓔ]
Hosted by the European Union's Joint Research Centre, Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP), this reference laboratory focuses on the development and scientific and regulatory acceptance of alternative testing methods aimed at replacing, reducing or refining the use of laboratory animals. In 2011, the tasks previously assigned to ECVAM (the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods) were moved to [EURL ECVAM](#).

[Japanese Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods \(JaCVAM\)](#) [Ⓔ]
Promotes the 3Rs in animal experiments for the evaluation of chemical substance safety in Japan.

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<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/mandatory-and-regulatory-testing>



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About AWIC



Laws and Guidelines



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3Rs Alternatives: Technologies, and Approaches



Alternatives in Education: Veterinary Medicine

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Biologics and Vaccine Testing

Eye Safety Testing

Allergic Contact Dermatitis Testing

Non-Animal Methods



Reducing Pain and Distress



Selected Refined Procedures



Housing, Care and Welfare



Biologics and Vaccine Testing

Leptospira vaccine potency testing

USDA. *Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB).*

- [Guidance for obtaining an exemption to the requirement for testing *Leptospira bacterins* for potency in hamsters, Veterinary Services \(VS\) Memorandum No. 800.102 \(2013\)](#) -- provides information on alternative in vitro potency assays (SAM) and on reagents available from the Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB). Use of ELISA is optional. Firms are to obtain an exemption from CVB before using the ELISA. Firms must validate the potency assays for their products and submit data to CVB for acceptance.
- [Option to Remove Back-titration Hamsters from In Vivo Potency Tests for *Leptospira Serogroups Canicola and Icterohaemorrhagiae*, CVB Notice #15-13 \(2015\)](#) -- provides biologic licensees, permittees and applicants the option to remove back-titration hamsters from in vivo potency tests for *Leptospira* serogroups *icterohaemorrhagiae* and *canicola*. CVB would allow an exemption from the titration requirement in vaccination-challenge potency assays for these serogroups. Removal of the back-titration hamsters could reduce animal use by 50% when potency testing these two fractions.
- [Option to Remove Back-titration Hamsters from In Vivo Potency Tests for *Leptospira Serogroups Pomona and Grippotyphosa*, CVB Notice #17-06 \(2017\)](#) -- provides biologic licensees, permittees and applicants the option to remove back-titration hamsters from in vivo potency tests for *Leptospira* serogroups *pomona* and *grippotyphosa*. CVB would allow an exemption from the titration requirement in vaccination-challenge potency assays for these serogroups. Removal of the back-titration hamsters could reduce animal use by 50% when potency testing these two fractions.
- [Leptospira Bacterin Potency Testing regulations \(9 CFR §113.101- 113.105\)](#)

Search for Scientific Literature on Leptospirosis Vaccine Potency Testing

Click on the following resources for scientific literature about reduction, refinement or replacement (3Rs alternatives) in leptospirosis vaccine potency testing

- [AGRICOLA](#)
- [PubMed](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)



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AWIC Workshops

Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act:
A Systematic Approach

- Provide a historical overview of the Animal Welfare Act and its information requirements.
- Discuss 3Rs alternatives.
- Become familiar with databases and other resources helpful in searching for 3Rs alternatives.
- Design and run searches for 3Rs alternatives.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/awic-workshop>

Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act

Learn a systematic approach to finding information about animal welfare and 3Rs alternatives.



Introduction



What You'll Learn



Instructors

[Register Now](#)

[Request More Information](#)

★ Introduction

The [Animal Welfare Information Center \(AWIC\)](#) online workshop provides the flexibility of self-paced learning to help Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) members, researchers, veterinarians, information providers, and institutional Animal Welfare...



Designed For

Principal investigators, members of IACUCs, graduate students, administrators of animal use programs, librarians and veterinarians.

Link to online workshop:

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/awic-workshop>



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Animal Use Alternatives Thesaurus

Enhance controlled vocabulary in the NALT* for the 3Rs to improve discoverability of and access to peer-reviewed publications on animal use alternatives

***National Agricultural Library Agricultural Thesaurus (NALT)**

<https://agclass.nal.usda.gov/agt.shtml>



Welcome to the Animal Welfare Act History Digital Collection

A full-text, searchable set of digitized documents



[Advanced Search](#)

Not sure where to start? Take a look at our [Interactive Timeline!](#)

<https://awahistory.nal.usda.gov>



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Thank you!

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/contact-awic>