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**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY  
POLICY STATEMENT  
ON THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH**

In recognition of the need for the appropriate and humane use of animals in research, and in response to the growing pressure from other organizations that would deny Americans the health benefits evolving from animal research, the American Academy of Neurology, as a professional society including basic and clinical researchers and caregivers, endorses and supports the appropriate and responsible use of animals as experimental subjects. Neurologic researchers have an obligation to contribute to continued progress in the treatment of diseases of the brain and nervous system through responsible and humane research on animals. Preventing the appropriate use of animals in research would deprive humans and animals of the benefits of research and would thus be unethical.

- The past few years have seen major advances in neuroscience, and thereby, in our capacity to diagnose and treat patients with neurologic disease effectively. These advances depend in large part on studies of living systems, requiring the use of laboratory animals. Future advances also will require animal studies.
- The study of living systems is essential, either directly or indirectly to most forms of biological, behavioral and medical research. The absence of laboratory animals would paralyze research in the life sciences, and bring an end to the overwhelming majority of research programs aimed at relieving human disease and suffering.
- The neuroscience community is on the threshold of even greater progress through expanded research in genetics, immunology and in understanding the complex functioning of neurotransmitters. Further research cannot depend solely on human volunteers, computer models or epidemiological studies because of the complexity of these areas. Further advances against the neurological diseases must continue to depend on the use of living systems, mandating the careful and humane use of animals with respect for them as living beings.
- In recognition of this necessity, society at large supports the humane treatment of animals in research. It has conferred upon neurologic researchers who use animals a high level of responsibility for health and well being of the animals entrusted to their care. They should use the minimum number of animals necessary to ensure scientific validity, and permit no unnecessary pain or discomfort.
- All research with animals must be conducted with strict adherence to the standards promulgated by the appropriate scientific and professional organizations as well as in compliance with applicable federal, state and local statutes.