

Morris Animal Foundation **Guidelines for Animals Involved in Research**



Background: Morris Animal Foundation improves the health and well-being of companion animals and wildlife by funding humane health studies and disseminating information about these studies. Founder Dr. Mark Morris Sr. advocated health studies that addressed diseases that affect animals, rather than using animals as models to study human disease. Without health studies specifically for animals, animals would suffer from a greater number of diseases and disorders. Animal health studies hold the best hope for continued progress in the fight against pet and wildlife overpopulation, genetic disease, cancer, infectious disease, endocrine disease, heart disease, renal disease, eye disease, orthopedic disease, laminitis, colic, and much more. High-quality scientific studies also hold the best hope for protecting endangered species on the verge of extinction.

Morris Animal Foundation supporters understand that animal health studies are necessary to improve the health and well-being of animals. The Foundation works to assure that each and every animal involved in a Morris Animal Foundation health study receives excellent, compassionate care.

Guidelines:

1. Use of animals shall be humane and consistent with laws and regulations that have been approved by local governing bodies whose function is the regulation of animals in research (e.g., Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee ~ IACUC). When an IACUC is unavailable (e.g., foreign country, veterinary practice, animal ranch/sanctuary, wildlife preserve, etc.), Morris Animal Foundation will require the review of the proposed animal use by an established collaborating institution's IACUC or require the applicant to seek review from a willing institution that has an established IACUC. All animal care, husbandry procedures, and IACUC member structure shall meet or exceed the guidelines set forth in the U.S. government's Animal Welfare Act (Title 9 CFR Subchapter A – Animal Welfare) and the National Research Council's *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (1996)*, and/or further required regional regulations.
2. Investigators and animal care staff shall have appropriate qualifications and experience for conducting procedures on living animals per IACUC approval. Each investigator on the study shall provide the required biographical sketch indicating those qualifications and experience.
3. Morris Animal Foundation requires IACUC approval from the submitting institution for all clinical trials even though such approval may not be a requirement of the institution.

4. Morris Animal Foundation shall require informed owner consent in all clinical trials. An informed owner consent form of minimum standards shall be provided by the Foundation and executed by the Principal Investigator.
5. Morris Animal Foundation reserves the right to perform unannounced site-visits and/or independent audits at any institution if it deems it necessary to investigate concerns dealing with animal welfare issues as well as unsatisfactory progress.
6. Funding requests shall include statistical evidence that the number of animals proposed in the study is appropriate and minimally adequate to achieve the proposed results. It is also imperative that scientists requesting support shall review relevant literature (local and foreign) to prevent unnecessary replication of research, unnecessary utilization of animals, or unnecessary utilization of health study funds.
7. The living conditions of animals shall be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort in accordance with the National Research Council's *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (1996)*, or further required regional regulations.
8. Every animal shall have compassionate care, comfort, and protection from abuse and unnecessary pain. Investigators shall not create any type of predation among animals as part of the study. Investigators shall also minimize stress and fear in individuals or populations of animals.
9. Investigators shall make every effort to ensure that animals are appropriately socialized for their species, and provide environmental enhancement when possible.
10. Whenever possible and when in the animal's best interest, investigators shall make animals available for adoption at the end of the study.
11. Morris Animal Foundation's Scientific Advisory Boards shall evaluate each proposal for scientific merit, relevance for optimizing animal health, and for consideration of animal welfare (minimizing discomfort, distress, pain).
12. Morris Animal Foundation shall not fund health studies on an animal which require euthanasia as the study endpoint, unless 1.) the nature of the disease or condition to be studied is of such significance for improving animal health that a terminal endpoint is justified. Investigators shall be required to address euthanasia in all Morris Animal Foundation grant applications. (see pre-proposal and proposal guidelines) and 2.) meaningful information can be obtained no other way (i.e., alternative models have been thoroughly evaluated).
13. Morris Animal Foundation shall not fund health studies on an animal which require the induction of disease or injury, unless 1.) the nature of the disease or condition to be studied is of such significance for improving animal health that induction of disease is justified. Investigators shall be required to address introduction of disease in all Morris Animal Foundation grant applications. (see pre-proposal and proposal guidelines) and 2.) meaningful information can be obtained no other way (i.e., alternative models have been thoroughly evaluated).
14. Morris Animal Foundation shall not fund any study that induces or allows pain or distress, other than short-term minor pain or distress that can be controlled by appropriate anesthetic, analgesic or tranquilizing drugs.
15. Morris Animal Foundation reserves the right to terminate a study if progress is deemed unsatisfactory or if there are concerns about animal well-being.