## Why Animal Research?

Animal research is a major contributor to almost all advances in human and animal health. The similarity in biological makeup between humans and some animals provides insight into diseases such as COVID-19, Diabetes, Cancer and many more. Animal testing also allows scientists to control environmental factors (such as temperature, lighting and diet), which is rather difficult and sometimes unethical during human trials. A controlled environment helps to standardize research conditions and leads to reliable data.

Prior to the initiation of any animal procedures, all research, teaching and training involving the use of vertebrate animals at the University of Iowa must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Use of vertebrate animals must be reviewed by the IACUC to ensure compliance with Public Health Service (PHS) Policy (administered through Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, OLAW), Animal Welfare Regulations (administered through USDA-APHIS), and The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (endorsed by OLAW and administered through accrediting body, AAALACi).

### Important institutional numbers for grant submissions involving vertebrate animal work:

- PHS Animal Welfare Assurance (D16-00009, A3021-01)
- Registered United States Department of Agriculture research facility (USDA No. 42-R-0004)
- Accredited by AAALACi (#000833, since November 1994)

## Office of Animal Resources (OAR)

The University of Iowa provides a centralized animal care program through the Office of Animal Resources (OAR) which reports to the Vice President for Research. The program includes animal housing facilities in the Colleges of Medicine, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Public Health. Additional sites affiliated with this program are the State Hygienic Laboratory in Ankeny, IA, the Iowa Raptor Project located near Lake Macbride, and the Lakeside Laboratory located near Lake Okoboji in Western Iowa. The OAR’s mission is preservation of the University’s animal research privilege and maintenance of a quality animal care and use program.

The OAR is charged with providing a number of functions, including (but not limited to):

- Appropriate care of vertebrate animals in research (e.g. daily health and welfare checks, cage changes, provisions of feed/water)
- Veterinary expertise on species/models, techniques, pain management, and diagnoses
- Allocation of resources needed for the maintenance of research animals

Have questions? Give us a call or send us an email.
319-335-7985 (main OAR line)
oar-veterinarian@uiowa.edu (to contact an OAR veterinarian)
oar-office@uiowa.edu (to contact OAR administrative staff)