



Definition of Pain and Distress and Reporting Requirements for Laboratory Animals: Proceedings of the Workshop Held June 22, 2000

By Committee on Regulatory Issues in Animal Care and Use,
Institute for Laboratory Animal Research, National Research
Council

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New Book. In this first in a proposed series of workshops on
regulatory issues in animal care and use, the Institute for
Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) has addressed the existing
and proposed requirements for reporting pain and distress in
laboratory animals. The Animal Welfare Act, administered by
the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United
States Department of Agriculture (USDA), mandates that pain
and distress in laboratory animals be minimized. USDA is
considering two policy changes with regard to this specific
mandate. Firstly, since there has been no functional definition
of distress, USDA has prepared such a definition and requested
feedback from the scientific community on its usefulness for
regulatory and reporting requirements. The second issue
concerns the pain and distress categorization scheme for
reporting to USDA. Various groups and individuals have
questioned the efficacy of the current categories, and specific
changes have been proposed by the Humane Society of the
United States. USDA is considering these and other potential
changes to the existing scheme. Thus, given these potential
changes to animal welfare policy, the aim of the ILAR/NIH
joint...

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