



## **Responsible Use of Animals in Research – AbbVie’s Commitment**

At AbbVie, we are dedicated to developing and delivering a consistent stream of innovative new medicines with distinct and compelling patient benefits. The major regulatory agencies across the globe, including the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Japan Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) require all new medicines to be evaluated in both humans and animals before they can be approved.

AbbVie is committed to the humane care and use of animals in our research and development programs. Animals are only used when alternatives will not provide the data necessary to discover and develop safe and effective medicines.

Humane animal care is an essential aspect of high quality science. In order to be studied in the most controlled manner, animals must be kept healthy, comfortable and able to express innate behavior. AbbVie’s laboratory animal research programs and facilities consistently exceed all regulatory requirements. We voluntarily seek and maintain accreditation from AAALAC International (previously the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care) for our animal programs.

### **Our Approach and Policy**

Veterinarians specialized in laboratory animal care are responsible for animal program oversight. Specially-trained veterinary technicians and animal caretakers ensure all animals are observed daily and provided the care needed to ensure optimal welfare.

All employees working with animals undergo training to ensure they will uphold the highest standards for animal care and use, including adhering to humane endpoints. In addition, all individuals responsible for the care, use or oversight of animal studies in AbbVie facilities or contracted/collaborative animal studies personally commit to adhere to the following:

*The use of animals in research and testing is a privilege, carrying with it a professional and ethical obligation to ensure that animals are treated humanely and in accordance with applicable national, state/province and local animal welfare regulations, guidelines and accreditation requirements, and in accordance with institutional protocols, guidelines and/or policies.*

It is an ethical mandate of AbbVie’s [Code of Business Conduct](#) to report violations in humane animal care and use to the responsible ethical oversight committee.

### **Our 3Rs Program**

While the use of animals in research remains essential for advancing health care research, AbbVie is dedicated to adopting new methods and technologies that minimize the need for

animal participation. AbbVie consistently addresses and applies the internationally accepted principles of the “3Rs,” which means:

- **Reduction:** reduce the number of animals to achieve research objectives.
- **Replacement:** replace animal studies with non-animal or insentient alternatives.
- **Refinement:** if animals must be used, modify procedures to minimize potential for pain and/or distress.

These efforts are led by AbbVie’s Alternatives Committee, which is comprised of scientists, veterinarians, and technicians who regularly share innovative methods and technologies that advance the 3Rs. The Alternatives Committee sponsors internal awards to recognize employees that promote and adopt the 3Rs in a significant way.

AbbVie does not currently use or intend to use or fund animal forced swim tests.

### **Our Animal Enrichment and Care Program**

We are dedicated to providing species-appropriate enrichment for all animals. Dedicated animal behavioral specialists manage enrichment to support a variety of animal behavioral needs with an emphasis on social housing and provision of a variety of food treats, toys, and activities. Employees volunteer in our Dog Socialization program and interact with research dogs in indoor and outdoor play areas. Since 2000, AbbVie has partnered with several agencies on a dog adoption program for retired research dogs in both the US and EU.

### **External Engagement and Outreach**

Our Global Animal Welfare Committee guides company policies on animal care and use. Additional committees include our Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (US) and Animal Welfare Body (EU), which serve as review boards to independently evaluate animal protocols. Non-affiliated members from the community participate on these committees to represent the public view. No studies or procedures on animals may be conducted without prior approval by these committees, and where required, approval of the appropriate regulatory authority.

If we outsource a research study, AbbVie preferentially engages with research organizations and institutions accredited by AAALAC, and we perform welfare assessments to ensure they meet AbbVie’s high standards for animal care and use.

AbbVie collaborates with organizations on their efforts to educate the public about the responsible use of animals in research. We support partners such as the [Foundation for Biomedical Research](#), [Americans for Medical Progress](#) and the [European Animal Research Association](#), [ACLAM Foundation](#) and [Homes for Animal Heroes](#).