

# Laboratory Animal Welfare

0.5 bonus points available

## Rationale

This credit recognizes research institutions that are playing a leadership role in eliminating animal suffering. Eliminating such suffering is essential for animal welfare and often results in improved science.

## Criteria

Institution has a written policy explicitly prohibiting laboratory animals in its care from being subjected to *severe and unrelieved pain and distress*. Policies that prohibit animal testing altogether also qualify.

To earn this credit, an institution must be engaged in animal research and/or research that could potentially include animal subjects.

Policies at the national, regional or state/provincial level to which the institution adheres count if such policies fully meet the criteria outlined above. Policies that could potentially allow severe pain and distress (e.g., U.S. federal guidelines) do not count.

## Scoring

An institution earns 0.5 bonus points for having a written policy explicitly prohibiting laboratory animals in its care from being subjected to severe and unrelieved pain and distress. Partial points are not available.

## Reporting Fields

### Required

- ☐ Does the institution have a written policy explicitly prohibiting laboratory animals in its care from being subjected to severe and unrelieved pain and distress?  
If yes, provide:
  - ☐ The written policy explicitly prohibiting laboratory animals in the institution's care from being subjected to severe and unrelieved pain and distress (text and/or upload)

### Optional

- ☐ Website URL where information about the laboratory animal welfare program is available
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (an employee who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

## Standards and Terms

### Severe and unrelieved pain and distress

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) provides [a sample policy](#) that includes the following examples of research that could result in severe and unrelieved pain and distress:

- 1) Examples of research that could lead to severe pain or distress if not prevented or relieved with proper use of anesthetics, analgesics, palliative care, humane endpoints, etc.
  - a) Cancer
  - b) Use of paralytics
  - c) Arthritis
  - d) Recovery from major surgery
  - e) Infectious disease
  - f) Irradiation
  - g) Inflammatory conditions
- 2) Examples of procedures that would typically cause severe and unrelieved pain or distress.
  - a) LD50 tests
  - b) Marked social deprivation
  - c) Prolonged full-body restraint (lasting more than minutes)
  - d) Noxious electric shock that is repetitive and/or is not immediately escapable
  - e) Repeated and/or prolonged psychological insult to induce learned helplessness

For more information, see the [HSUS](#) website.