



October 17, 2022

The task force thanks the faculty and administrators who provided robust and extensive feedback regarding the draft Guidelines for the Use of Animals in Veterinary Education. Feedback was received from a majority of AAVMC member institutions.

The task force was composed of representatives from nine member institutions from four countries across three continents (North America, Europe and Australasia). The guidelines were produced following an iterative process in regular meetings over a 12-month period. Every word and statement in the final draft was meticulously considered to convey the consensus meaning discussed and agreed by the group. During the feedback phase, every comment received was carefully reviewed by the task force. Where feedback identified lack of clarity or confusion, wording was changed. Where feedback suggested a change of meaning was required, requests were considered by the task force and accepted or rejected based on the consensus of the group.

This document was written, and should be interpreted, as a guide. While these guidelines may currently be aspirational for some institutions, they have deliberately been written non-prescriptively. We encourage individual institutions to interpret them with due regard to their own unique institutional, regional, and national circumstances.

While we appreciate that individual institutions may choose to reference the guidelines for accreditation purposes, we emphasize that AAVMC policies and guidelines are not requirements for any national or international accreditation standards.

AAVMC is an international organization, and the task force deliberately selected what they believe to be universally comprehensible language and generic terms. As a result, we expect that individual readers may find some of the terminology unusual and/or believe that there is a more appropriate term than the one used (e.g. "senior veterinary administration" to refer to the institution's leadership). For the same reason, the guidelines avoid referring to any national bodies or legislations which would be meaningless outside of an individual member country (e.g. IACUC).

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