



Position Statement on Use of Live Animals in Research

Note: This statement provides ACC&D's position on the use of live animals in the development of long-acting contraceptives and non-surgical sterilants for dogs and cats.

Tragically, unwanted dogs and cats lose their lives through inhumane population control efforts, or live on the streets where they face tremendous odds and where many ultimately meet untimely deaths. The Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs (ACC&D) was formed with the focused purpose to expedite the successful introduction of methods for non-surgical sterilization of dogs and cats and to support the distribution and promotion of these products for humane control of cat and dog populations worldwide. These new methods of fertility control will allow animal welfare organizations and government programs to more effectively and efficiently prevent the births of unwanted litters, saving lives and decreasing suffering.

We recognize that contraceptives and non-surgical sterilants for dogs and cats cannot be developed without studies involving live animals. That research may occur at various stages, from basic research to clinical trials required for regulatory approval. ACC&D embraces the principles of the three R's: Reduce, Refine, and Replace. Where animals must be used in studies, ACC&D believes the use of animals should conform to the well-defined [Policy for Animals Involved in Research](#) developed by the Found Animals Foundation for their Michelson Prize & Grants Program, currently the primary source of funding for research on non-surgical sterilant technologies for cats and dogs.

Toward the end goal of developing less invasive sterilization options, ACC&D may fund, undertake, or facilitate certain types of animal research that are minimally invasive and non-terminal when they advance the organization's mission. Examples include, but are not limited to: field studies to increase learning about existing products (those with regulatory approval and commercial availability for dogs and/or cats, or extra-label use of other approved products); development and testing of innovative methods for animal marking; and use of telemetry technology to study free-roaming dog and cat populations with the objective of optimizing the value of population control and welfare benefits provided by non-surgical fertility control options. Any research or studies with which ACC&D is involved must minimize pain, discomfort, and stress through appropriate veterinary and/or pharmacologic, as well as consider the animal welfare implications of animal sourcing.

ACC&D's project on ethical decision-making in innovation for animal welfare has convened experts and created resources to help navigate ethical dilemmas inherent in this work with the best interests of animals, people, and communities in mind. Visit our [website](#) to find out more.

Questions about ACC&D's perspectives on and role in relation to the use of animals in laboratory, clinical, or field studies may be directed to info@acc-d.org.

Last updated April 1, 2022