

## **Analysis of Animal Use Covered by USDA Reportable Data Under the Animal Welfare Act**

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Each facility in the United States that uses live animals for research, tests, experiments, or teaching must submit an annual report to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that includes “the common names and the numbers of animals upon which experiments, teaching, research, surgery, or tests were conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs were (or were not) used” (9 CFR, Chapter 1 Part 2, Section 2.36). In accordance with the definitions in §2132 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 54), it is not necessary to report birds, rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice of the genus *Mus* bred for use in research, or fish, amphibians and livestock or poultry used in agricultural research. In the 2010 USDA annual report on animal usage, a total of 1,134,693 animals were reported, with 97,123 of those reported as experiencing unrelieved pain and distress. Based on an analysis of these data by the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM), 95% (91,997/97,123) of the animals reported to the USDA as experiencing unrelieved pain and distress were used for testing. Of these animals, 57% (54,889/97,123) were used for vaccine testing, and 38% (37,108/97,123) were used for toxicity testing. Most of the animals used for toxicity testing were used for safety testing and drug efficacy testing. NICEATM is currently investigating and promoting alternative test methods to further reduce the number of animals used in painful procedures. Supported by ILS staff under NIEHS Contract N01-ES-35504.

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