

**VERTEBRATE ANIMALS**  
SF 424 (R&R) - Version H

**CONTENT INSTRUCTIONS**

Please follow the [Vertebrate Animals Application Guidelines](#) and any guidance provided in your specific funding opportunity announcement (FOA) when completing the Vertebrate Animals attachment.

Include a Vertebrate Animals attachment if you answered “Yes” to the question “Are Vertebrate Animals Used?” on the R.220 - R&R Other Project Information Form.

**Each of the criteria below must be addressed.**

**1. Description of Procedures**

- Provide a concise description of the proposed procedures to be used that involve live vertebrate animals in the work outlined in the “Research Strategy” attachment.
- The description must include sufficient detail to allow evaluation of the procedures.
- Identify the species, strains, ages, sex, and total numbers of animals by species, to be used in the proposed work.
- If dogs or cats are used, provide the source of the animals.

**2. Justifications**

- Provide justification that the species are appropriate for the proposed research.
- Explain why the research goals cannot be accomplished using an alternative model (e.g., computational, human, vertebrate, in vitro).

**3. Minimization of Pain and Distress**

- Describe the interventions including analgesia, anesthesia, sedation, palliative care and humane endpoints that will be used to minimize discomfort, distress, pain, and injury.

**4. Additionally, please address the following 2 points:**

- Identify all project performance (or collaborating) sites and describe the proposed research activities with vertebrate animals that will be conducted at those sites.
- Explain when and how animals are expected to be used if plans for the use of animals have not been finalized.

*Use of URLs and hyperlinks in this section is not allowed unless specified by the FOA.*

**RESOURCES**

**[Worksheet for Applications Involving Animals](#)**

This worksheet describes the information that must be included in applications submitted to NIH for activities involving the care and use of animals. It provides an overview of the requirements, a checklist for applicants and reviewers, detailed instructions, responsibilities of applicants, reviewers and NIH staff, and an example of an acceptable application.

### **Vertebrate Animals Section (VAS) Factsheet**

This factsheet summarizes important guidelines for preparing the Vertebrate Animals Section (VAS) and provides answers to questions such as: What is the VAS? Which studies require a VAS? What if there is more than one performance site? What information should be provided in the VAS?

### **Vertebrate Animals Section (VAS) Training Module**

The objective of this 20-30-minute training module is to successfully navigate the VAS in grant applications in accordance with the PHS Policy.

### **What Investigators Need to Know About the Use of Animals**

This document summarizes the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy) and describes the responsibilities of investigators throughout the grant process, from the earliest stages of planning until the study is completed.

### **Research Involving Animals: 2021 NIH Virtual Seminar Session**

This recording from the 2021 NIH Virtual Seminar revisits the basics of using animals in NIH-funded research. It defines 'animal' as it relates to NIH oversights, describes the requirements of the Vertebrate Animals Section (VAS) of the grant applications, discusses the significance of verifying IACUC approval, identifies the three types of Animal Welfare Assurances, and describes what situations qualify as noncompliances and the implications of noncompliances.