

STATEMENT OF THE POSITION OF THE IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ON THE ISSUE OF ANIMAL RIGHTS

The Iowa Academy of Science strongly opposes the attempts, made in the guise of “animal rights”, to abolish the use of animals as scientific research and teaching subjects.

Significant success in life science research has been due, in large part, to the use of experimental animals. The rationale for such use lies in the fact that their organ systems, metabolic pathways, and genetics have counterparts in humans. Therefore, the information gained from such research has been of enormous value to the welfare of both humans and other animals.

Those engaged in research against using animals must always balance the value of information received against the need to:

- a. obtain from reputable sources that most appropriate species for the study under consideration.
- b. optimize the comfort of the subjects.
- c. utilize the smallest number of subjects appropriate for the experimental design.
- d. avoid using species that are either endangered or nearing endangerment.

The Iowa Academy of Science supports the use of animals in research and teaching. It recognizes the responsible scientists must continue to acknowledge and respect the interdependency and unique qualities of all of Earth’s organisms.

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