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New NRC Publications on Cat and Dog Nutrition, Use of Mammals in Neuroscience and Behavioral Studies

NRC Updates Nutrition

Requirements for Dogs and Cats

On 8 September, the National Research Council (NRC) announced the publication of Nutrient Requirements of Dogs and Cats, a comprehensive, 450-page report by an international team of experts on the daily nutrient and calorie requirements of dogs and cat^{1,2}.

NRC is the operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering. It is a private, nonprofit institution that provides scientific and technological advice under a congressional charter. The National Academies fosters improved understanding of the nutritional needs of pets, wildlife, laboratory-research species, and food-producing animals through its authoritative series of *Nutrient Requirements of Domestic Animals*.

The new report, based on research conducted during the past 25 years, provides nutritional recommendations based on physical activity and stage of animal life, examines how nutrients are metabolized in dogs and cats, advises how to recognize overweight dogs and cats, and what and how to feed them in order to keep them healthy. The report is intended to primarily serve scientists, manufacturers of pet food, and veterinarians.

New Guidelines for the Care and Use of Mammals in Neuroscience and Behavioral Research

Expanding on the NRC's *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*³, it's Committee on Guidelines for the Use of Animals in Neuroscience and Behavioral Research has recently published *Guidelines*

*for the Care and Use of Mammals in Neuroscience and Behavioral Research*⁴. This document provides flexible and specific guidelines for the care of mammals in neuroscience and behavioral studies that do not impede the research.

This book presents the most current, in-depth information about the best practices for animal care and use in neuroscience and behavioral research, and includes the following important subjects:

- The important role that the researcher and veterinarian play in developing animal protocols.
- Methods for assessing and ensuring well-being of animals.
- General animal-care elements in neuroscience and behavioral research, and common animal welfare challenges this research can pose⁴.

The book encourages the use of profes-

sional judgment and careful interpretation of regulations and guidelines to help researchers, veterinarians, and animal care committees evaluate animal protocols and provide high quality of care to animals studied in neuroscience and behavioral research.

References

1. Subcommittee on Dog and Cat Nutrition, Committee on Animal Nutrition, National Research Council. *Nutrient Requirements of Dogs and Cats* (National Academy Press, Washington, DC, in press).
2. The National Academies. Publication Announcement. New dietary guidelines issued for cats and dogs. (8 September 2003). <http://www4.nationalacademies.org/news.nsf/isbn/0309086280?OpenDocument>.
3. Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Research Council. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1996).
4. Committee on Guidelines for the Use of Animals in Neuroscience and Behavioral

Regulation Updates

Airlines to Report on Incidents Involving Pet During Transport

On 11 August, the Department of Transportation issued a final rule amending 14 CFR Part 119 to "require air carriers that provide scheduled passenger air transportation to submit monthly reports on the loss, injury or death of an animal during air transport to the Secretary of Transportation, through APHIS. The rule specifies the type and manner of information that air carriers must submit to APHIS to comply with Section 41721(a). APHIS will process the reports and forward the relevant information to the Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings (AEP) for monthly publication in the Air Travel Consumer Report⁵." This amendment to the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act of the 21st Century (AIR-21) followed public concerns about commercial airline animal transportation. The lawmakers conceded to airlines that sought to minimize the requirements, and to the National Association for Biomedical Research and others who asked to exempt animals used in research. Section 119.72(c)(2) now defines 'animal' as "any warm or cold blooded animal which, at the time of transportation, is being kept as a pet in a family household in the United States⁵."

Environmental Warning Added to Animal Euthanasia Products

In an attempt to protect wildlife from exposure to toxic euthanasia solutions, the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) added on 21 July an environmental warning to two FDA approved pentobarbital-containing euthanasia solutions⁶. CVM initiated this label revision in response to reports of wildlife dying as a result of barbiturate intoxication. To help prevent or alleviate future injury to wildlife, CVM is requiring that manufacturers revise labels of pentobarbital-containing euthanasia solutions to include the following warning: "ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD: This product is toxic to wildlife. Birds and mammals feeding on treated animals may be killed. Euthanized animals must be properly disposed of by deep burial, incineration, or other method in compliance with state and local laws, to prevent consumption of carcass material by scavenging wildlife⁶."

Research, National Research Council.
*Guidelines for the Care and Use of
Mammals in Neuroscience and Behavioral
Research* (National Academy Press,
Washington, DC, 2003).

5. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration. Final Rule. Reports by carriers on incidents involving animals during air transport. *Federal Register* **68**, 47797–47800 (11 August 2003).
6. Food and Drug Administration, HHS. Final Rule; Technical Amendment. Injectable or implantable dosage form new animal drugs; euthanasia solution; technical amendment. *Federal Register* **68**, 42968–42969 (21 July 2003).