Model distribution agreements

A new mouse model is more than a research tool; it also represents potentially valuable intellectual property (IP) for the institution that developed it. Distributing mice is an important part of advancing science, but developers are still keen to protect their IP. It can be a tricky area to navigate through for a new developer, and one that's only getting more complicated as the technologies to make new mice advance and make it easier for anyone to create their own model.

There are resources to help. In the May Technology feature, we cover some of basics of IP and distribution agreements, as well as how the landscape is changing.

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Taking care of honey bees

A honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) might not seem like a likely veterinary patient, but the recently passed Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) is turning US veterinarians' gaze towards a new animal. The VFD requires a veterinarian to be involved in the prescription of antibiotics to livestock—that means honey bees too. Besides their environmental and agricultural value, honey bees are also model organisms in a number of research labs. Taking care of them is a bit of an art, with bee keepers in the lab and elsewhere often finding their own way to best manage the health of their hives. What can a veterinarian bring to the table?

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