The animals of SARS-CoV-2

The race is on to develop appropriate animal models of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Ultimately, these models will be invaluable for testing therapeutics against active SARS-CoV-2 virus infections and for developing vaccines to prevent future ones. But developing novel animal models, and at such a fast pace, is no easy feat. Nor is there likely to be a single best choice—different species comes with different advantages and disadvantages for researchers to make sense of as they work to understand this disease.

This month's Technology Feature explores what goes in to making an animal model of a novel virus, with lessons learned from past outbreaks and novel approaches to creating animals with the most relevant human pathology possible.

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After the whistle is blown...

Most animal research is carefully regulated and monitored to ensure the best welfare possible for the subjects involved. But sometimes, protocols are broken and that care compromised. In the face of reprisal, how should such information be reported?

The Protocol Review column this month explores what's in store for whistleblowers, including how they should handle their reporting duties and any fallout that comes from their actions, as well as what's expected from the institutions responsible for overseeing animal welfare and that of their staff.

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