Useful Background Information

Federal law requires that all new drugs and medical appliances must be tested for safety and efficacy. The standard procedure is to develop concepts and initial testing on experimental animals. Federal law also requires that animals used in research must be cared for humanely. Research protocols have to be approved by an independent committee of experts and lay people. Actual conduct of the research is subject to monitoring and unannounced inspection.

The Veterinary Black Bag Program

Project Goals:
- Develop Veterinarian’s Black Bags (VBBs) of instructional items and pamphlets for middle school teachers to support classroom visits by local veterinarians.
- Provide professional development for veterinarians and teachers on how to use items in the VBBs
- Promote inquiry-based thinking about health-related subjects while emphasizing the value of biomedical research and promoting careers in science.

The instruction in this module includes:

Follow-Up Lesson

Presentation on Animals in Research
Follow-up lessons on:
- Pros and Cons of Animal Research
- Animal Research: Case Study
- Care of Lab Animals

Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University, College Station, Tx 77843
MS#4458
http://peer.tamu.edu/VBB/Summary.asp
Summary of Lesson Content

This lesson explains why animals are needed in research and how the government regulates humane animal care. Students also learn what laboratory animal care facilities are like, how they operate, and why they are important to researchers and the research enterprise.

Questions to Ask

· What are the alternatives to using animals?

· Why do biomedical scientists want to use animals in research?

· How does the government regulate animal research and provide for humane care of laboratory animals?

Objectives

Students will be able to:
1. Identify the alternatives to using animals in research and explain why it is still necessary to use animals.
2. Explain how the government regulates animal research and requires humane care of laboratory animals.
3. Explain what a central laboratory animal care facility is and how it operates.
4. Identify career fields represented in such facilities.
5. Explain the advantages of such facilities for the animals and for researchers.