

Policies and Procedures

SECTION: IACUC	NUMBER: 7.33			
CHAPTER: Consideration of Alternatives to Painful/Distressful Procedures	ISSUED: 7/31/17	REV. A: 8/16/19	REV. B:	REV. C:

Purpose

Under Section 2.31 of the Animal Welfare Act Regulations and USDA Policies 11 and 12, a Principal Investigator (PI) is required to provide a written narrative to determine if alternatives exist to procedures which may cause pain or distress in animals used for teaching or research.

- Alternative narrative must address each of the 3 R's (Refine, Reduce and Replace):
- Refine (employ techniques that reduce pain and distress)
- Reduce (minimize the number of animals used)
- Replace (substitute animal with non-animal methods or lower organisms)

Application

Search of appropriate database(s) of published studies is one way to evaluate whether alternatives to animal testing are available. When a database search is the primary means of meeting this requirement, two or more databases are required and the narrative must include:

- The names of the databases searched
- The date the search was performed;
- The time period covered by the search; and
- The search strategy (including scientifically relevant terminology used).

A reference librarian or information specialist should be consulted to complete this federally mandated requirement. The IACUC may include a reference librarian from the Health Sciences library in their monthly meetings. A reference librarian can offer assistance to Principal Investigators for literature searches used to identify alternatives. To request a search, email the refdesk@creighton.edu. Indicate in the subject line, "IACUC Search" and attach Section B of the IACUC application.

For all USDA species, the IACUC will forward a copy of the submitted IACUC protocol to a reference librarian to perform a search for duplication. Any potential duplication/alternatives will be included in the pre-review letter or the response letter from the IACUC for further clarification.

Literature searches must be conducted annually.

References:

[Animal Welfare Regulations Section 2.31](#)

[USDA Policies 11 and 12](#)

[USDA Instructions for Alternatives Literature Searching Worksheet](#)