

Animal Welfare

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Conference Announcement

ANIMAL RESEARCH: WHERE DOES THE BUCK STOP? Ethics, Economics, and Responsibility

The ethical responsibilities of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees seem clear – to ensure that experimental and husbandry procedures are refined to reduce animal pain and suffering, and that the minimum numbers of animals necessary are used in research. When it comes to ethical responsibility for the humane conduct of animal research, then, the buck ultimately stops with the IACUC. But ethical considerations can (and increasingly do) collide with reality in situations where IACUCs lack the time, money, or people resources necessary to carry out these responsibilities. Where does the buck stop with respect to providing resources for environmental enrichment, experimental validation of humane endpoints, or retirement programs for animals: with the IACUC, the institution, the investigator, regulators, or other outside agencies? How does the IACUC weigh the cost of refinements against other priorities in animal care and research in general? And what can the IACUC do to increase its effectiveness when ethical responsibilities and the resources to carry them out are not clearly linked?

The Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, and the Center for Animal Welfare, at the University of California, Davis will hold a conference to discuss ethics, economics, and responsibility in animal research on October 2-5, 1999. The conference organizing committee members are John Gluck, Lynette Hart, Joy Mench, Barbara Orlans, Jerrold Tannenbaum, and Philip Tillman. The conference will be held at the Granlibakken resort conference center in Lake Tahoe, CA. Further details can be obtained by contacting: Sue Pounds Heekin at the Center for Animal Welfare, Center for Special Programs, Meyer Hall, University of California, Davis, CA 95616. Telephone (+1) 530-754-8564, FAX (+1) 530-752-4508, E-mail: animalwelfare@ucdavis.edu