Vertebrate Animals

In order to remove redundancy with IACUC review while meeting the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory animals requirements, the following changes will be made for all applications due on January 24, 2016 through May 25, 2016 (Phase 1).

For due dates on or after May 25, 2016 (Phase 2), new questions will be added to the FORMS-D application package to replace the euthanasia criteria in the vertebrates animal section.

Summary of Changes
The VAS criteria are simplified by the following changes:

- A description of veterinary care is no longer required.
- Justification for the number of animals has been eliminated.
- A description of the method of euthanasia is required only if the method is not consistent with AVMA guidelines.

If live vertebrate animals are to be used, federal policy requires applicants to address the following criteria:

1. **Description of Procedures.** Provide a concise description of the proposed procedures to be used that involve vertebrate animals in the work outlined in the application or proposal. Identify the species, strains, ages, sex and total number of animals by species to be used in the proposed work. If dogs or cats are proposed, provide the source of the animals.

2. **Justifications.** Provide justification that the species are appropriate for the proposed research. Explain why the research goals cannot be accomplished using an alternative model (e.g., computational, human, invertebrate, in vitro).

3. **Minimization of Pain and Distress.** Describe the interventions including analgesia, anesthesia, sedation, palliative care and humane endpoints to minimize discomfort, distress, pain and injury.

4. **Euthanasia.** State whether the method of euthanasia is consistent with the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. If not, describe the method and provide a scientific justification.

Application Review Criteria
As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will evaluate the involvement of live vertebrate animals as part of the scientific assessment according to the following criteria: (1) description of procedures involving animals including species, strains, ages, sex and total number to be used; (2) justifications for the use of animals versus alternative models and for the appropriateness of the species proposed; (3) interventions to minimize discomfort, distress, pain and injury; and (4) justification for the euthanasia method if not consistent with the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. Reviewers will assess the use of chimpanzees as they would any other application proposing the use of vertebrate animals.

Resources
See the [Vertebrate Animals Section](#) webpage for more information on the VAS requirements. Here you will find a checklist, detailed instructions, plus links to worksheets.