



The United States Animal Research (USARO) Agreement is a voluntary commitment by institutions to increase openness about animal research.

- **Signatories:** Organizations directly involved in research, teaching, or testing that involve animals.
- **Allies:** Organizations that are not directly involved in such research but support the ethical involvement of animals in these fields.

This document includes the agreement as well as explanations and examples (“options”) to help institutions fulfill each USARO commitment. These are suggestions, not requirements—progress is the goal.

The USARO Agreement

Each signatory institution will commit to the following, and make these commitments publicly accessible (e.g., on their website).

1. **Communicate** clearly about why, when, and how animals are critical in our work for advances in medicine and science that benefit humans, animals, and the environment.
2. **Amplify** our commitment to skilled, compassionate care, including veterinary care, for all animals in research.
3. **Promote** the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) as the foundation for scientific and ethical justification for the inclusion of animal models and scientific quality.
4. **Engage** with public audiences, including the media and policymakers, to disseminate information about the involvement of animals in research, through a variety of activities.

How It Works

- An institutional representative signs the USARO Agreement via a link at usaro.org or by emailing info@usaro.org
- Signatories and Allies will be listed publicly via their organization’s name and/or logo at www.usaro.org. (Inaugural signatories will be posted beginning in 2026)
- The institution can use the “Explanations and Examples” provide or find other ways to achieve each commitment, based on what works for that institution.

Explanations and Examples

Commitment 1	Communicate Clearly
Explanation	Provide accessible information about why animals are needed, how they're cared for, and the role they play in advancing health and science.
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a clear statement on your website about the importance of animal models and your commitment to welfare. • Share images or videos showing humane care and enrichment. • Connect animal research to real-world benefits (e.g., patient health, environmental conservation). • Explain oversight and accreditation processes. • Link to external resources (advocacy groups, scientific societies, partner organizations).
Commitment 2	Amplify Commitment to Compassionate Care
Explanation	Highlight the comprehensive veterinary and daily care provided to research animals and the professionals behind it.
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share videos or photos of housing, enrichment, and daily care. • Feature staff stories: veterinarians, technicians, animal caretakers. • Describe training and certification programs (AALAS, residencies, etc.). • Explain regulatory and ethical care standards. • Highlight retirement or adoption programs for animals.
Commitment 3	Promote the 3Rs
Explanation	Show how the institution integrates Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement in all aspects of animal research and oversight.
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a webpage or section highlighting examples of 3Rs in action. • Offer training and awards related to 3Rs innovation. • Publish case studies demonstrating application of the 3Rs. • Explain how IACUC review ensures 3Rs are considered in every study. • Emphasize commitment to all three Rs, not just one area.
Commitment 4	Engage with Public Audiences
Explanation	Actively provide accurate, transparent information to the public, policymakers, and media about your institution's research and animal care practices.
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand your website with FAQs, animal welfare reports, and statistics. • Host events: BRAD, student visits, classroom talks, or community open houses. • Provide media guidance and include animal roles in press releases. • Engage policymakers through briefings or campus visits. • Offer a contact channel for public inquiries.