

# Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)



A service of the  
USDA, ARS, National Agricultural Library

# AWIC Provides 3Rs Information

[7 U.S.C. 2142, Sec. 13, Subsection e]

**The Secretary [of Agriculture] shall establish an information service at the National Agricultural Library. Such service shall, in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine, provide information—**

- (1) pertinent to **employee training**;
- (2) which could **prevent unintended duplication** of animal experimentation as determined by the needs of the research facility; and
- (3) on **improved methods** of animal experimentation, including methods which could--
  - (A) **reduce or replace** animal use; and
  - (B) **minimize pain and distress** to animals, such as anesthetic and analgesic procedures.

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Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees +

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## Animal Welfare Information Center

The **Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)** is mandated by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to provide information for improved animal care and use in research, testing, and teaching.



### Social Housing of Laboratory Animals

Information about pair and group housing of common animals used in research.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic>

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## Biologics and Vaccine Testing

**Leptospira vaccine potency testing**


USDA. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB).

- Guidance for obtaining an exemption to the requirement for testing *Leptospira* bacterins for potency in hamsters, Veterinary Services (VS) Memorandum No. 800.102 (2013) -- provides information on alternative in vitro potency assays (SAM) and on reagents available from the Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB). Use of ELISA is optional. Firms are to obtain an exemption from CVB before using the ELISA. Firms must validate the potency assays for their products and submit data to CVB for acceptance.
- Option to Remove Back-titration Hamsters from In Vivo Potency Tests for *Leptospira* Serogroups *Canicola* and *Icterohaemorrhagiae*, CVB Notice #15-13 (2015) -- provides biologic licensees, permittees and applicants the option to remove back-titration hamsters from in vivo potency tests for *Leptospira* serogroups *icterohaemorrhagiae* and *canicola*. CVB would allow an exemption from the titration requirement in vaccination-challenge potency assays for these serogroups. Removal of the back-titration hamsters could reduce animal use by 50% when potency testing these two fractions.
- Option to Remove Back-titration Hamsters from In Vivo Potency Tests for *Leptospira* Serogroups *Pomona* and *Grippityphosa*, CVB Notice #17-06 (2017) -- provides biologic licensees, permittees and applicants the option to remove back-titration hamsters from in vivo potency tests for *Leptospira* serogroups *pomona* and *grippityphosa*. CVB would allow an exemption from the titration requirement in vaccination-challenge potency assays for these serogroups. Removal of the back-titration hamsters could reduce animal use by 50% when potency testing these two fractions.
- [Leptospira Bacterin Potency Testing regulations \(9 CFR §113.101- 113.105\)](#)


Search for Scientific Literature on Leptospirosis Vaccine Potency Testing  
Click on the following resources for scientific literature about reduction, refinement or replacement (3Rs alternatives) in leptospirosis vaccine potency testing


- [AGRICOLA](#)
- [PubMed](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)


<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/biologics-and-vaccine->


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About AWIC 

Laws and Guidelines 

Training 



Alternatives Literature Searching 

3Rs Alternatives: Technologies, and Approaches 

Alternatives in Education: Veterinary Medicine

Experimental Design

Funding Opportunities



**Mandatory and Regulatory Testing**  

Biologics and Vaccine Testing



Eye Safety Testing

Allergic Contact Dermatitis Testing



## Mandatory and Regulatory Testing

- [Testing Regulations and Guidelines](#) , *National Toxicology Program*.
- [Alternative Methods Accepted by US Agencies](#) , *Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM)*.



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[Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Evaluation of Alternative Methods \(ICCVAM\)](#)    
ICCVAM and its supporting center, NICEATM (the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods), coordinate the development, validation, acceptance, and harmonization of alternative toxicological test methods throughout the United States Federal government.

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[European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing \(EURL ECVAM\)](#)    
Hosted by the European Union's Joint Research Centre, Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP), this reference laboratory focuses on the development and scientific and regulatory acceptance of alternative testing methods aimed at replacing, reducing or refining the use of laboratory animals. In 2011, the tasks previously assigned to ECVAM (the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods) were moved to [EURL ECVAM](#).

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[Japanese Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods \(JaCVAM\)](#)    
Promotes the 3Rs in animal experiments for the evaluation of chemical substance safety in Japan.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/mandatory-and-regulatory-testing>

# AWIC Workshops

Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act:  
A Systematic Approach

- Provide a historical overview of the Animal Welfare Act and its information requirements.
- Define the 3Rs of alternatives.
- Become familiar with databases and other resources helpful in searching for alternatives.
- Design and run a search for alternatives.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/awic-workshop>

# Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act

Learn a systematic approach to finding information about animal welfare and 3Rs alternatives.



Introduction



What You'll Learn



Instructors

Register Now

Request More Information

## ★ Introduction

The [Animal Welfare Information Center \(AWIC\)](#) online workshop provides the flexibility of self-paced learning to help Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) members, researchers, veterinarians, information providers, and institutional officials fully understand and meet the information requirements of the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations.



Designed For

Principal investigators, members of IACUCs, graduate students, administrators of animal use programs, librarians and veterinarians.



Anytime

Free!

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/awic-workshop>



## Animal Welfare Act History Digital Collection

### Welcome to the Animal Welfare Act History Digital Collection

A full-text, searchable set of digitized documents



[Advanced Search](#)

***Not sure where to start? Take a look at our [Interactive Timeline!](#)***

<https://awahistory.nal.usda.gov/>



# Animal Use Alternatives Thesaurus

- Enhance controlled vocabulary in the NALT\* for the 3Rs to improve discoverability of and access to peer-reviewed publications on animal use alternatives

**\*National Agricultural Library Agricultural Thesaurus (NALT)**

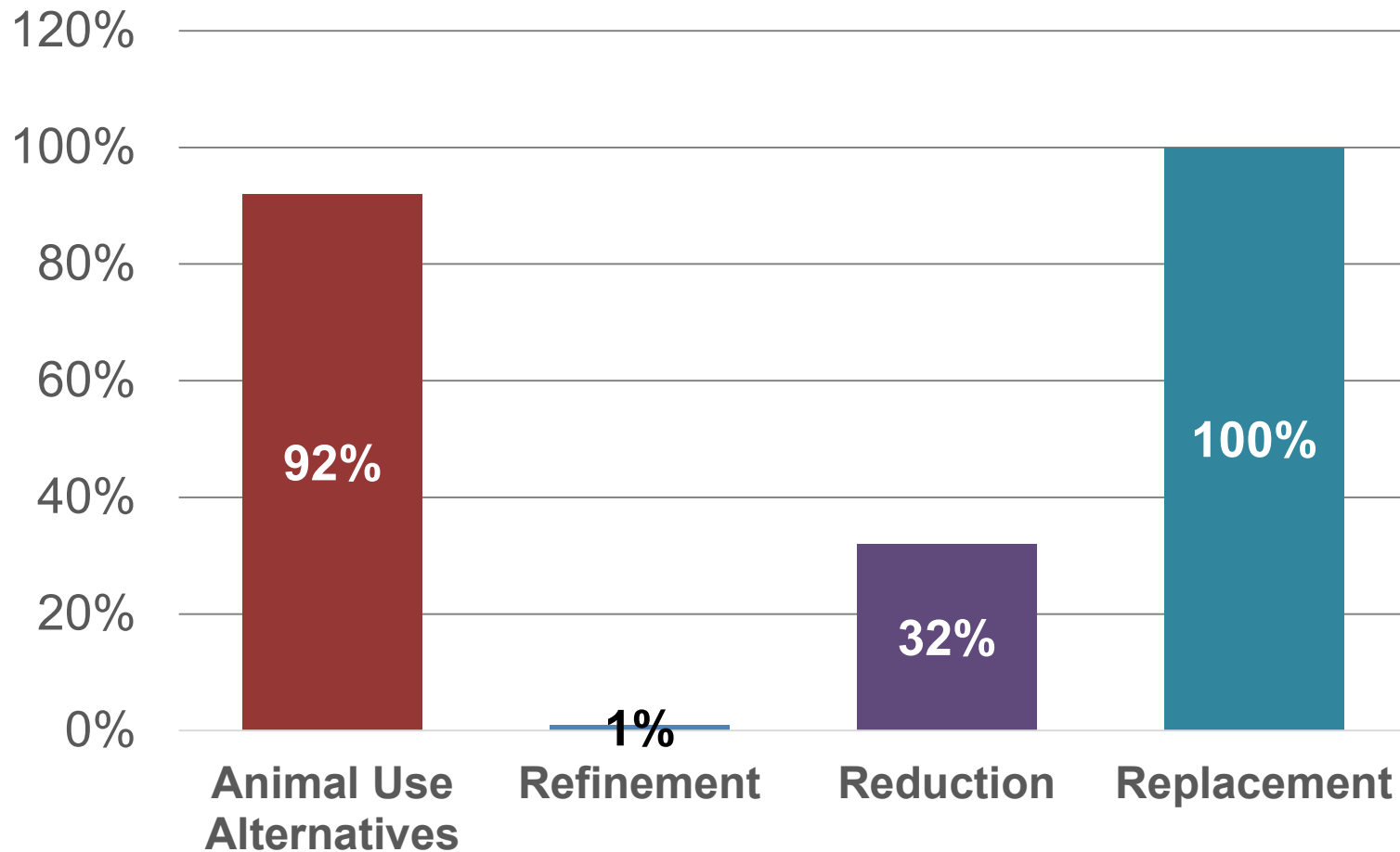
<https://agclass.nal.usda.gov/agt.shtml>

# 3Rs Indexing Project

Category	Number of Citations
Animal use Replacement	19
Animal use Refinement	32
Animal use Reduction	20
Animal use Alternatives	38

**Total Citations = 109**

# Machine Indexing Accuracy



## Contacting AWIC

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