

Roundtable on Science and Welfare of Animals Involved in Research



Membership Return on Investment Statement: Why Participation Pays Off

ROI

Membership in the Roundtable is a strategic investment that provides access to focused, evidence-informed discussions, activities, and resources on complex issues in the oversight of research involving animals that members can apply in their day-to-day work. Members gain early insight into policy and practice shifts, ready-to-use tools that strengthen animal welfare and program quality, and trusted access to cross-sector expertise from government, industry, and academia. Together, this neutral National Academies' forum keeps institutions at the forefront of issues that impact operations, bolsters compliance, and provides a platform for members to help shape national discourse and institutional practices around research involving animals and emerging challenges. A relatively modest annual contribution of individual members are returned several fold, allowing the Roundtable to leverage collective investment to engage in programming and produce products whose collective value significantly exceeds the original investment.

THE ROUNDTABLE ADVANTAGE

Mission: Enhance public understanding and address scientific and ethical issues in animal and human health. **Vision:** Advance scientific rigor, innovation, and active involvement to improve the health of humans, animals, and ecosystems.

Core values: Objectivity, Communication, Education, Collaboration, Innovation, Leadership, Participation, Truth. The Roundtable promotes the Three Rs (replacement, reduction, refinement) through Roundtable discussions, activities, and publications and serve as a neutral, authoritative forum where policy, science, and operations meet.



WHAT MEMBERSHIP DELIVERS

- Membership in the Early policy insight
- Time saved
- Stronger programs
- Collective impact
- Rapid problem solving
- Workforce growth

MEMBER TESTIMONIAL: IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND COMPLIANCE

“Participation in the 2023 Effective Communication workshop reshaped how we talk about research that involves animals, both inside and outside the institution. The workshop’s focus on moving beyond a ‘deficit model’ of communication and on clearly explaining why animals are used, how they are cared for, and what their contributions are to animal and human health has been especially valuable. We left with practical tools for message mapping, framing, and engaging non-experts, including how to anticipate concerns, acknowledge ethical considerations, and address misinformation in a calm, transparent way.

We first applied the new framework during the rollout of updated animal-use procedures. Staff used the structured message-mapping technique to explain the rationale, intent, and required actions in plain language, linking the changes to both regulatory expectations and our institutional commitment to humane care. As a result, researchers demonstrated stronger understanding, asked fewer repeated questions, and adopted the revised procedures more smoothly. We now draw on the same approaches in responses to public inquiries and in materials prepared for broader audiences, which has helped us communicate more openly about our program and build greater trust with both investigators and external stakeholders. Without these tools, the rollout and subsequent communications would likely have faced more resistance, longer delays, and a higher risk of misunderstanding or noncompliance.”

—Dr. Joe Newsome, recently retired associate director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR), Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS (2024–2025)

Activities and Publications that Met Pressing Needs

- Expert Discussions on State and Federal Policies Governing Research Involving Animals Meetings of Experts.
- Contingency Planning & Training of Personnel Rule (APHIS–2020–0101), One Year of Implementation—A Workshop. 
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/27738>
- Effective Communication with the General Public about Scientific Research that Requires the Care and Use of Animals—A Workshop. 
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/27737>

ROUNDTABLE IMPACT SNAPSHOT FROM 2015–2025

- **PUBLICATIONS** A total of 10 publications released including key works in contingency planning and effective public communication.
- **REACH** Engaging 10,000+ attendees through workshops and webinars highlights our global reach and accessibility.
- **POLICY** Our focus on policy relevance ensures programming addresses evolving agency guidance and performance expectations.
- **ENGAGEMENT** Regular sponsor updates and monthly touchpoints keep members informed on key activities and policy developments and help turn ideas into shared resources and practices.

Call to Action

Membership in the Roundtable on the Science and Welfare of Animals Involved in Research is an investment in leadership, foresight, and credibility. It helps your institution meet today’s obligations, shape tomorrow’s standards, and help shape national discourse and institutional practices through a neutral, trusted National Academies forum on research involving animals and emerging challenges.

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/units/DELS-ILAR-12-04>