

Part I: Overview; 8th edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals**Overview**

The 8th edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (The Guide) was released in December 2010.¹ It is important for those involved with designing, operating and maintaining animal research facilities to be familiar and in compliance with the key recommendations and additions in the 2010 edition of 'The Guide' to ensure that renovated and new facilities receive AAALAC accreditation.² The purpose of 'The Guide' is to assist institutions in caring for and using animals in ways judged to be scientifically, technically, ethically and humanely appropriate. Recommendations in 'The Guide' are based on published data, scientific principles, expert opinion, and experience with methods and practices that have proven to be consistent with both high-quality research and humane animal care and use. Designing, constructing, operating and maintaining a facility to the principles stated in 'The Guide' are critical to allowing the scientific community to advance research programs. In all instances where 'The Guide' recommendations are different from other applicable legal or policy requirements, the higher standard should apply.

Organization of 'The Guide'

The 8th edition of 'The Guide' is divided into five chapters and four appendices.

- Chapter 1 - goals, key concepts, terminology and intended audiences
- Chapter 2 - overall institutional animal care and use program
- Chapter 3 - animal species; housing and environment, space recommendations; introduces aquatic species; social housing,

environmental enrichment. Space recommendations are expanded based on current housing methods and are labeled as "recommended minimum space". Some species-specific guidance is provided. An additional group has been added for monkeys and chimpanzees are separated in a new category.

- Chapter 4 – veterinary care and the responsibilities of the attending veterinarian
- Chapter 5 – discussion of the physical plant includes updated and new material on vibration control; physical security and access control; hazardous agent containment; and special facilities for imaging and whole body irradiation, barrier housing, behavioral studies, and aquatic species housing. The chapter provides detailed discussion of centralized versus decentralized animal facilities.
- Appendices - updated bibliographic resources and committee members.

Chapter 3 'Environment, housing, and management of research laboratory animals' and Chapter 5– 'Physical Plant', are the most relevant for Architects and Engineers.

Part II of this series will address New Architectural features in the 2010 Guide.

¹ Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition: <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/12910.html>

² Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care: <http://www.aaalac.org/about/guidelines.cfm>

