



FACTSHEET – Animal Research:

About Animal Research:

- Animal research is the foundation for virtually every medical breakthrough over the past century. From antibiotics to blood transfusions, from dialysis to organ transplantation, from vaccinations to chemotherapy, bypass surgery and joint replacement, practically every present-day protocol for the prevention, treatment, cure and control of disease, pain and suffering is based on knowledge attained through research with laboratory animals.
- Approximately 95% of all lab animals are rodents - bred specifically for research. Rodents are the animal model of choice for researchers because their physiology and genetic make-up closely resemble that of humans.
- The majority of Nobel laureates have used animal models in their research. Without animal research, medical advancement would be thwarted.
- To date, there is no comprehensive alternative for animal models in research. Certainly, computer models and cell cultures, as well as other adjunct research methods, are excellent avenues for reducing the number of animals used. But the pathway to fully duplicating a whole, living system does not yet exist.
- All animal research is subject to strict federal regulations. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has set forth federal regulations governing the care and use of animals in biomedical research that are considered more extensive than those covering human research subjects. The Animal Welfare Act sets these high standards of care for research animals.
- Recent discoveries using animal research: spinal cord regeneration techniques (rodent models); HPV vaccine (rabbits); Parkinson's deep brain stimulation (monkeys); Bird flu vaccine (ferrets).
- FBR defends animal research because animal research is saving both human and animal lives everyday.