



WINN FELINE FOUNDATION

For the Health and Well-being of All Cats

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Humane Use of Animals Guidelines

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Winn Feline Foundation (Winn) is dedicated to funding scientifically sound, relevant, and humane studies that specifically address the health and well-being of cats. All studies receiving funding must follow Winn's Humane Use of Animals Guidelines, which were written to ensure that each and every animal involved in a Winn-supported project receives compassionate care throughout the study. Winn will not fund projects which require euthanasia as an endpoint or the induction of disease or injury, unless the nature of the disease or condition to be studied is of such significance for improving feline health that such means are justified, and meaningful information can be obtained in no other way. Such situations should be uncommon and unique. Furthermore, Winn will not fund any project that induces or allows pain or distress, other than short-term minor pain or distress that can be controlled by appropriate anesthetics, analgesics, and/or nursing care. Any Winn-funded project should include precautions to ensure that short-term, minor pain and distress are limited.

The following information should be provided by researchers where applicable in grant applications:

1. A description of biological samples, tissues, etc. that will be used and where and how they will be acquired. Winn requires that all proposals have the approval of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, or equivalent review committee, for any Foundation-supported study regardless of the Institution's requirements.
2. If this project involves live animals, the following should be addressed:
 - a. Provide details of the species of animal involved and justify the number of animals required for the project
 - b. Explain how the animals will be acquired (e.g., client-owned, USDA licensed breeder, institutional colony, etc.) and verify that the animals are suitable for the study (e.g., have no physiologic, physical, or pharmacologic issues that would interfere with results)
3. If the project induces disease, injury, pain or distress, the following must be addressed:
 - a. The experimental design must be defended
 - b. Information must be provided on the nature of the pain, injury or distress and how it will be controlled and treated
 - c. Justify that no alternative can be used to accomplish the project objectives and demonstrate the critical significance of the disease or condition to be studied for improving the health of cats

4. Explain the environment and housing conditions in which the animals will live (address appropriate exercise, enrichment, socialization, veterinary care, space requirements, ambient temperatures, ventilation, etc.)
5. Describe the disposition of the animals upon completion of the project
 - a. If adoption, explain the adoption process and what will happen to animals that cannot be placed in homes.
 - b. If euthanasia, provide the following additional information:
 - i. Total number of animals that will be euthanized and justification for numbers
 - ii. Method of euthanasia
 - iii. Justification that no alternative can be used to accomplish the project objectives and demonstrate the critical significance of the disease or condition to be studied for improving the health of cats
 - c. If animals have been purchased specifically for a Winn-funded study, adoption is the preferred disposition at the end of the project whenever possible. Euthanasia or transfer to another research project or program will require the consent of the Winn Feline Foundation.

If an animal is used in an invasive study, Winn may require a guarantee (with the principal investigator and institutional signatures) that the animal will not participate in any future invasive study. Winn does not look favorably upon inclusion of ancillary data in Winn-supported research that includes animal use protocols not in agreement with our Guidelines, even if it is obtained using other funding sources. Winn Feline Foundation considers euthanasia acceptable when an animal develops unanticipated illness or injury that results in pain and suffering that cannot be alleviated with standard methods.