



At Elanco Animal Health, we believe animal welfare is integral to the sustainability of global communities. Our approach to animal welfare takes a holistic view of animal care that extends beyond the role our products and services play.

Elanco's approach, positions, and business practices are based on sound science and our ethical obligation to ensure the quality, efficacy, and safety of all the medical innovations we discover for animals. This is why we support and work within the principles of animal welfare as defined by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as [OIE](#)).

Animal welfare means 'the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.' Animal welfare is a concept used to characterize the physical and mental state of an individual animal and how this animal is experiencing the conditions in which it lives (WOAH, 2018). Animal welfare isn't defined simply by the absence of adverse events and conditions but by the presence of positive ones. Elanco supports the WOAH Global Animal Welfare Strategy's objective of achieving "A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability".

The guiding principles of the WOAH's work on the welfare of Terrestrial animals include the '[Five Freedoms](#)'. Developed in 1965, the five freedoms described society's expectations for the conditions animals should experience when under human control. Elanco also recognizes animal welfare as being the positive presence of the "[Five Domains](#)" of animal welfare.

Our commitment to upholding good animal welfare contributes to [Elanco's Healthy Purpose™](#), our framework of commitments and actions focused on advancing the well-being of animals, people and the planet.

*Five Domains of Animal Welfare**

- **Nutrition** — factors that involve the animal's access to sufficient, balanced, varied and clean food and water;
- **Environment** — factors that enable comfort through temperature, substrate, space, air, odor, noise and predictability;
- **Health** — factors that enable good health through the absence of disease, injury, or impairment with a good fitness level;
- **Behavior** — factors that provide varied, novel, and engaging environmental challenges through sensory inputs, exploration, foraging, bonding, playing, retreating, and others; and
- **Mental state** — the mental state of the animal should benefit from predominantly positive states, such as pleasure, comfort, or vitality while reducing negative states such as fear, frustration, hunger, pain, or boredom.

*Source: <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/10/10/1870/htm>

Introduction

As an innovative animal health company, we respect animals and are dedicated to safeguarding the welfare of farm animals, pets, and research animals worldwide. Beyond the research and development of our products, Elanco has animal welfare specialists who work alongside farmers, ranchers, veterinarians, nutritionists, and pet owners to promote good welfare practices and the responsible use of our animal health products, and the best possible care for each animal.

In the area of farm animal welfare, we focus on driving advancements through a ‘people plus animals’ approach that we believe is core to upholding optimal farm animal care, as well as the long-term success and sustainability of animal agriculture. We achieve this by supporting the stewards of animal care, as well as through practical innovations and collaborations, with the aim of making essential contributions to enhancing species-appropriate care and management practices. We enable a sustainable approach to farm animal welfare by focusing on three key areas: promote responsible use of veterinary medicines; engage with operations to enhance animal care, health nutrition and management practices; and discover and advance innovations that improve animal welfare.

For pet animals, health and welfare guide our research and development teams in the development of easy-to-give medicines to reduce hassle for pets and pet parents. Our innovative products help to prevent or relieve suffering from infectious diseases, parasite infestations, acute and chronic pain, skin allergy, cancer and other serious diseases that significantly impair the well-being of animals. In addition, we continuously engage in the innovation of our products and services to support a closer human-animal bond. Internal and external education programs, including but not limited to welfare-guided animal handling, early diagnosis and disease intervention, underline our ambition to drive the welfare of pet animals with our products and beyond.

Elanco is dedicated to safeguarding the welfare of our research animals. We only work with research partners that meet our high standards of animal welfare. In today’s state of scientific discovery, the development and approval of animal health solutions require the humane use of research animals to sustain and improve good animal welfare outcomes for all animals. To uphold our ethical and scientific obligations in discovering innovative products for animals, Elanco works diligently in implementing our animal welfare programs, as well as providing the oversight and approval of all global research protocols and inspections of research sites.

1.0 Core Concepts for Our Global Welfare Policy

1.1	Our position is based on respect for all animals, whether they are in research or client-owned by ensuring not only access to good housing and health but also the ability for animals to express appropriate behaviors.
1.2	We support a sustainable approach to animal welfare that accommodates efficient food production and companionship to enrich the lives of a growing population.
1.3	We support the responsible use of our products as a component of comprehensive animal care by empowering stakeholders, services, and training to either increase or sustain good animal welfare through improved health and emotional states of animals.

1.4	We will work with all stakeholders, including veterinarians, producers, academics, regulators, non-governmental organizations and contract research organizations, to share knowledge that improves animal care.
1.5	We are dedicated to improving human-animal companionship by supporting our responsible use of our products that make healthy animal companions enrich the lives of owners.
1.6	We are dedicated to balancing research objectives with sound science while ensuring the humane and responsible use of the animals to maximize welfare by applying the 3Rs principles. Therefore, Elanco has a dedicated 3R's committee to assist our scientists in implementation, training and study design refinements that incorporate the principles below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement: The replacement of animals with alternative non-animal methods including the application of in-vitro (test tube) systems or in silico (computer-based) systems as well as the use of a species lower in the phylogenetic scale, such as using the nematode instead of sheep • Reduction: The reduction in the number of animals used by the application of good experimental design, applicable regulations, and/or the proper statistical methods • Refinement: The modification of experimental techniques to eliminate or minimize pain or distress and to enhancements in animal husbandry to improve overall well-being in their colony environment (e.g. environmental enrichment, social housing/contact, etc.)
1.7	Personnel who care for research animals and/or conduct studies are appropriately qualified through training for the proper care and use to maximize an animal's welfare. Written procedures are available for key activities for care and use of animals and should include documentation of such training for employees.
1.8	Our policies, guidelines, and business practices are based on sound science and best practices, with continual review of scientific literature to refine such documents.
1.9	Finally, we recognize that respect for animals is an individual responsibility of everyone in Elanco, with a company commitment to continue to hire compassionate and dedicated employees working with our animals to ensure the best care possible.

2.0 Ethical Committees

2.1	Elanco ensures all animal studies are subjected to ethical oversight. For countries where this is not performed by the government authority, Elanco has a global ethical committee, referred to as the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), that reviews and approves protocols, as well as fulfills other regulatory requirements as described in the Animal Welfare Act in the United States. The committee has global representation to assess best practices and compliance at the global level and harmonize whenever possible. Committee membership is intended to be diverse with;
2.2	Volunteer members who are not affiliated with our company to represent the public
2.3	Veterinarians with training in laboratory animals, housing practices and alternatives that maximize welfare while achieving the scientific objective.
2.4	Scientists with specific knowledge in biologics and other therapeutic areas of interest.
2.5	Non-scientists that can include statisticians, health and safety, librarians, etc.

3.0 Animal Welfare Concerns

3.1	Every employee is required to report any known, observed, or suspected animal welfare concerns regarding Elanco research animals immediately.
3.2	Posted procedures for reporting are located throughout the sites, which encourages prompt reporting, and can include any illness, disease outbreak, injury, abnormal behavior, etc. Additionally, animal welfare concerns may be reported to any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any member of the Elanco Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)• Any member of the site veterinary staff, or animal welfare teams
3.3	These concerns are reviewed as applicable by Global Animal Welfare, the IACUC, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care international (AAALACi) and/or other government authorities/agencies. Corrective and preventative actions are implemented as appropriate. The company will not tolerate any retaliation against employees for reporting any animal welfare concerns.

4.0 Our Compliance with Guidelines and Standards

4.1	Elanco encourages our Contract Research Organizations (CRO) and/or animal suppliers to obtain and maintain accreditation or use the AAALACi principles described in the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” and the “Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching”. These guidelines are internationally recognized standards for appropriate animal care and use, with additional resources found on the AAALACi website that provide “best practice” guidance information.
4.2	Our use of animals in research is based on regulatory compliance, guidelines and best practices, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals,• the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching,• the Animal Welfare Act in the United States,• the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals,• the European Directive 2010/63,• the Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes,• other applicable local/state/country regulations, or other species-specific guides.
4.3	At Elanco, we use these guides as the starting framework for our Animal Welfare Compliance programs globally, which enables us to drive higher standards of animal care and use them in developing geographies that may not have formalized animal welfare standards for all species. Additionally, we require all of our contract research organizations and suppliers to apply the above core concepts. A periodic evaluation program, in which trained specialists in animal welfare perform assessments, is in place to monitor and assist our partners with adhering to these concepts.