



Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-6910
<http://olaw.nih.gov>

July 5, 2020

Dr. Cia L. Johnson
Director, Animal Welfare Division
American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360

Dear Dr. Johnson:

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), Office of Animal Welfare (OLAW) shares with the American Veterinary Medical Association a commitment to the humane care and responsible use of animals. OLAW oversees Public Health Service-funded animal activities by the authority of the Health Research Extension Act of 1985 and the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy). The PHS Policy, IV.C.1.g., requires that Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees reviewing PHS-conducted or supported research projects determine that methods of euthanasia used will be consistent with the recommendations of the AVMA, unless a deviation is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.

OLAW announced implementation of the updated AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 Edition on February 24, 2020 and sought input from the public on any concerns they had regarding the updated Guidelines. The NIH received 8 comments during the 60-day open comment period. The comments are attached for consideration by the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia.

Please contact me if there are any questions regarding the comments.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Brown, V.M.D., M.S., DACLAM
Director, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: Dr. S. Leary

Enclosure: Public Comments on Implementation of the AVMA Guidelines