



MSMR Statement on the Transportation of Animals for Research

The Massachusetts Society for Medical Research (MSMR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit member services and education organization whose members include research colleges and universities, academic medical centers and research hospitals, biotechnology and pharmaceutical firms, professional societies and suppliers. Our members come from across New England. We also provide programs about medical research for students and educators.

MSMR believes that scientific and medical knowledge developed through animal research has saved countless lives, has improved human and animal health, and has alleviated pain and suffering. We support the responsible and judicious use of animals in research, education and testing in the interests of human *and* animal welfare. The research community should insist on humane and ethical treatment of any animals used in research, education and testing.

All researchers and the research community recognize their legal and ethical responsibilities to ensure that animals are not used needlessly and are spared all unnecessary pain and distress. This community is guided by the 3Rs philosophy of reducing the number of animals used for research, replacing animals with other methodologies when possible and refining their use where possible.

In the world of human and veterinary medicine there have been remarkable advances from working with animal models of disease. Such advances have led, and continue to lead, to critical discoveries and new prevention and treatment strategies for conditions that have plagued human and animal populations throughout history.

In part, this progress has been due to the controlled and regulated professional transportation of research animals which facilitates the use of genetically modified strains and unique disease models. Research animal transportation also has reduced the need for redundant and wasteful breeding facilities and has enhanced the consistency of animal models. The safe and reliable transportation of live research animals is of absolute importance to the biomedical research arena. The Massachusetts Society for Medical Research fully supports the professional organizations working to provide this vital service as partners in the future of biomedical advancement.