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## Fact Sheet Animals in Research Statistics

- 95% of the total number of animals needed for medical and scientific inquiry in the United States are rodents – rats and mice – specifically bred for this purpose. Dogs, cats, and nonhuman primates *together* account for *less* than 1 percent of all animals used annually in medical research.
- The majority of dogs and cats used for medical research – about 50% – were specifically bred for research.
- In 2000, there were 69,516 dogs and 25,560 cats used in research.
- The number of dogs used in biomedical research has declined 67% since 1973, and the number of cats used in biomedical research has declined 63% since 1973.
- With very few exceptions, nearly all of the nonhuman primates needed for research are bred at designated primate centers and other institutions throughout the U.S.
- Approximately 4% of animals used in research are pigs, sheep, rabbits, frogs, fish, and other species.
- There are approximately 56 million cats and 54 million dogs in the U.S. and it is estimated that every hour more than 2,000 dogs and 3,500 cats are born.
- 56% of dogs and 71% of cats (roughly 8-10 million dogs and cats) that enter pounds or animal shelters are euthanized each year because they were neither claimed by owners nor adopted by others.
- More cats are euthanized than dogs because they are more likely to enter a shelter without owner identification.
- Only 15% of dogs and 2% of cats that enter animal shelters are claimed or reunited with their owners.
- 25% of dogs and 24% of cats that enter animal shelters are adopted by others.
- Approximately 4% of dogs and 3% of cats, that would otherwise be euthanized and were already scheduled for euthanasia, are released to research each year in the United States.
- Wildlife biologists estimate that over 1 million animals are killed every day by automobiles.
- The *total* number of dogs and cats used in research represents about .02% of all animals killed by automobiles and euthanized in pounds each year.