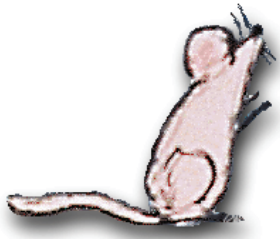


# Preparing the Vertebrate Animals Section (VAS)



## What is the VAS?

The VAS is the section of grant applications, contract proposals, and cooperative agreements where you describe the use of animals in your work. There are criteria you must address.

## Which studies require a VAS?

You must provide a VAS if your work involves the use of live vertebrate animals, including generating custom antibodies and obtaining tissue from live vertebrate animals.

## What if there is more than one performance site?

You need to address all the criteria of the VAS for each performance site.

## What information should be provided in the VAS?

### 1. Description of Procedures

Describe the proposed use of animals for the study. Identify the species, strains, ages, sex and total number of animals.

Have you included?

- \* Concise description of the proposed work using animals
- \* Procedures (e.g., injections, blood collection)
- \* Surgical procedures, including anesthetic regimes, monitoring and recovery
- \* Species, strains, ages and sex
- \* Total number of animals by species
- \* Source, if dogs or cats will be used

### 2. Justifications

Justify that the species are appropriate for the proposed research. Explain why goals can't be accomplished using an alternative model.

Have you justified?

- \* Why goals can't be accomplished using alternative models (e.g., computational, human, invertebrate, in vivo)
- \* Choice of species

### 3. Minimization of Pain and Distress

Describe the interventions including analgesia, anesthesia, sedation, palliative care and humane endpoints to minimize discomfort, distress, pain and injury.

Have you described?

- \* Circumstances when animals may experience discomfort, distress, pain or injury
- \* Procedures to alleviate discomfort, distress, pain or injury
- \* Use of tranquilizers, analgesics and anesthetics (identify drugs by name/class)
- \* Provisions for palliative care or housing
- \* Plans for post-surgical care, if applicable
- \* Humane experimental endpoints, if relevant

### 4. Euthanasia

State whether the method of euthanasia is consistent with the *AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals*. If not, describe the method and provide a scientific justification. Effective May 25, 2016, the method of euthanasia is eliminated from the VAS and is addressed in the FORMS-D Cover Page Supplement or PHS Fellowship Supplemental forms.

Have you?

- \* Indicated if euthanasia method is consistent with the AVMA guidelines
- \* Described method and provided a scientific justification for those not consistent with the guidelines

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

##### VAS Worksheet

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/VASchecklist.pdf>

##### AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>