



# Association of Shelter Veterinarians

## The Use of Shelter Animals in Research

*Last reviewed: October 2014*

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) is opposed to the use of animal shelters as a source of live animals for laboratory research. Specifically, the ASV is opposed to “pound seizure,” the practice of mandating animal shelters to provide live animals for research purposes. Additionally, the ASV is opposed to the use of “random-sourced” animals that class B dealers collect from shelters, owners, auctions or other non-purpose bred sources and sell for research purposes.

Animal shelters should be a resource for community animal health and well-being. Pound seizure or the random-sourcing of shelter animals for research is a breach of public trust in that animals are transferred to another party whose purpose is different from that of the shelter.

The ASV acknowledges that the use of live animals in laboratory research is often necessary and cannot, in many instances, be replaced by other models. The ASV does not oppose the acquisition of cadavers from shelters for research nor does it oppose humane, applied research conducted within shelter environments. The intent of applied research conducted in the shelter should be to directly improve the welfare of shelter animals.

POSITION STATEMENT