

Alternatives and Duplication Literature Search Request Form

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Agricultural Library (NAL), Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)

Last updated: February 2023

AWIC offers free [3Rs \(replacement, reduction, refinement\) alternatives](#) and duplication literature searching services to help determine if alternatives can be incorporated into an animal use protocol and/or whether the protocol unnecessarily duplicates previous research. Both pieces of information must be submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee as required by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) Regulations (9 C.F.R. 2.31 (d)(ii-iii) (2023)).

All individuals requesting a literature search from AWIC should complete and submit this form to awic@usda.gov. All requests remain confidential and are **NOT** shared with anyone outside of the AWIC team.

AWIC will return literature search results within 10 business days from the day we confirm receipt of your request (unless otherwise noted). We will respond to let you know your request has been received. Please reach out to AWIC via email (awic@usda.gov) if you have any questions.

Principal Investigator: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

If possible, please provide the research protocol when submitting a literature search request. Providing the protocol ensures that we have sufficient information to complete a thorough literature search:

- If protocol is provided, only answer questions 11 – 14.
- If a protocol is **not** able to be provided, please complete the **entire** form below.

1. Which literature searches do you need AWIC to complete: alternatives search, duplication search, or both?

2. Title of animal study protocol:

3. General summary and objective(s) of the study:

4. General area of research (e.g., cardiology, toxicology, lipid metabolism, immunology, etc.):

5. Type of protocol: Is the proposed study a research, teaching, or testing protocol?

6. Proposed animal species (e.g., pigs, rats, dogs, primates, etc.):

7. How many animals will be used in the study? How was this number determined (e.g., statistics, previous studies, etc.)?

8. List the specific names of the drugs being used (including anesthetics or analgesics).

9. Describe the methods and procedures using animals and the relevance to the study, paying particular attention to those procedures that may cause pain or distress to the animal. Please be descriptive and provide details (i.e., procedure name, how the procedure will be conducted, how often the procedure will be conducted, any methods used to reduce or eliminate the pain/distress, etc.).

10. Describe how the animals will be housed and how they will be handled (including how often). Please be specific and provide details.

11. Will animals be euthanized at any point during the study or after study completion? If so, how will they be euthanized?

12. List any keywords/terms related to the research/protocol that would be useful when conducting the search:

13. What databases have you previously searched? (Choose all that apply):

Medline Biosis Agricola Biological Abstracts

CAB Scopus Web of Science Zoological Record

Other(s) (write below):

14. What range of years would you like AWIC to search? (*We suggest including at least the past 10-15 years.*)

Database year(s): _____ to _____

15. Please provide the search strings previously used for this protocol below (if applicable):