

Developing Tools To Improve Research Animal Care



Eric P. Sandgren
Associate Professor of Pathobiological Sciences

CURRENT RESEARCH


Establishing novel welfare assessments and communication techniques to promote animal wellbeing in research

Working with animals in research is a highly contentious social issue worldwide. Often, current discussions on this complex topic involve misrepresentation and inaccuracy, and ethical perspectives are typically more persuasive than scientific facts. Dr. Eric P. Sandgren, Associate Professor of Pathobiological Sciences at University Of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison), is a veterinarian committed to finding better ways to ethically evaluate proposed uses and improve the wellbeing of animals in research. He is developing novel communication formats that accurately represent both the costs and benefits of animal research, allowing people to reach informed views that take into account their values as well as the facts. By supporting scientific studies to identify best practices in animal care, and establishing quantifiable assessments of animal wellbeing, he will enable people to improve animal welfare in research and ensure that animals receive the most humane care possible.

For 10 years, Dr. Sandgren was the Director of the UW-Madison's Research Animal Resources Center (RARC), the administrative unit on campus that provides oversight and veterinary care for all animals used in research, teaching, and outreach. In this role, Dr. Sandgren gained extensive experience with the regulation of research with animals. He also recognizes the importance of reaching out to the public—including those opposed to animal research—to explain the rationale for animal studies and how the animals are cared for. He believes that organizations willing to do experimental animal research should be able to explain and justify that work. Dr. Sandgren's current research involves the establishment of a Center for Common Ground on...

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AFFILIATION

 University of Wisconsin-Madison

EDUCATION

- B.S., 1982, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- VMD, 1986, University of Pennsylvania
- Ph.D. in Genetics, 1993, University of Pennsylvania

RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Ecology

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions help fund Dr. Sandgren's ongoing work in creating the communication and wellbeing initiatives for animal research. Donations support personnel costs, \$5K-\$10K for each survey series, and \$5K-\$15K for each study of a research animal species. Dr. Sandgren and his colleagues aim to develop a fully funded Center, which requires a minimum of \$100K/year. Support the improvement of both animal wellbeing and accurate, balanced communication about animal research; fund Dr. Sandgren.

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