

The Benefits of AAALAC International Accreditation

More than 1,175+ institutions in 52 countries/regions around the world have earned AAALAC International accreditation. Here are a few reasons why so many choose to participate in AAALAC's program...

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It demonstrates accountability and validates high standards in animal care and welfare

Today, programs are held to very high levels of accountability—by your employees, community, and the public. While animal research can be controversial for some, most people support biomedical research when it's conducted humanely. By voluntarily seeking AAALAC International accreditation, you show your commitment to exceeding the minimum legal requirements. This demonstrates to the public and your stakeholders that you are dedicated to the responsible care and use of animals in science and education.

It represents quality science and care

Forward-thinking organizations are always seeking ways to demonstrate a commitment to excellence. In the scientific community, earning AAALAC International accreditation shows that your program is serious about setting, achieving, and maintaining high standards for animal care and use, and that your organization is deeply committed to animal welfare. AAALAC offers the only international accreditation for animal research and education programs, and has become recognized worldwide as a symbol of quality and sound science—something you can be proud to achieve.

It promotes scientific validity

When your research involves animals, you know that reliable scientific results depend on superior animal care. By pursuing AAALAC International accreditation, your team of scientists, veterinarians, animal care staff, and administrators participate in an independent, rigorous assessment of your animal program—an assessment that leads to improved animal welfare and better research practices and outcomes for your organization.

It provides assurance in a global marketplace

Many organizations partner or contract with other research entities around the globe. Since laws and regulations related to animal research can vary greatly from country to country, your AAALAC International accreditation allows you to demonstrate the quality of your program, harmonize animal care and use practices, and provide assurance to your diverse stakeholders—no matter where they are located in the world.

It's a recruiting tool

AAALAC International accreditation attracts the best and brightest researchers and educators. Talented professionals seek high -quality programs to support their research. Accreditation assures them that you are dedicated to achieving the highest standards for animal care and use.

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It promotes a culture of care and advances the "Three Rs"

AAALAC accreditation helps you enhance your stewardship of the animals you use in science and education. By participating, you help promote a "culture of care" within your organization, and demonstrate support for the "Three Rs" of animal research: Reduce, Refine, and Replace.

It provides a confidential peer-review

To earn AAALAC accreditation, you will first conduct your own internal self-evaluation of your program—an exercise that offers tremendous value. Next, a team of highly qualified AAALAC representatives carries out an in-depth, confidential, on-site evaluation of your animal care and use program. This independent peer review ensures that your program meets or exceeds minimum standards for animal care and welfare, and helps you identify ways to make your program even stronger.

It stimulates continuous improvement

By participating in the AAALAC accreditation program, you commit yourself to a process that stimulates continuous improvement. Earning and maintaining accreditation keeps you engaged with current best practices and demonstrates to the world your genuine commitment to humane animal care and use, as well as to conducting sound science.

It instills a sense of pride and teamwork among animal care personnel

Earning and maintaining AAALAC International accreditation is a remarkable achievement that fills you and your team with pride at every level of your organization. For your animal care technicians, custodians, and others who provide day-to-day care, it's an especially satisfying accomplishment. The process of earning and maintaining accreditation is also a valuable team-building experience for your entire staff.

What people say about the AAALAC International accreditation program

(Following are comments from institutions participating in the accreditation program…)

"We always learn something new that helps our program as a result of an AAALAC site visit."

"AAALAC is a valuable resource for information and support. AAALAC site visits have been essential in gaining administrative support for needed improvements in our program during times of fiscal constraint."

"It's very helpful to have an objective outside observer review our operations and programs and let us know where we need to strengthen our procedures."

"AAALAC is a 'Good Housekeeping' seal of approval and has public relations value."

"Our institution has found AAALAC site visits helpful and informative. We appreciate your suggestions and strive to implement all of them. It's our mission to constantly be improving our laboratory animal program and AAALAC has provided sound guidance."

"We acted on many of AAALAC's suggestions. Very helpful. Thank you!"

"This was my first site visit and it was a very helpful, professional, and value-added experience for our program."

"Honestly speaking, even though we get a little anxious, we look forward to your visits."

"The assistance from AAALAC in providing clear statements of the importance of ethics, care, and compliance in working with animals is extremely valuable. We appreciate you!"

"AAALAC is a valuable resource and we get better after every AAALAC site visit."

"I view AAALAC as a partner in research!"