

## USDA MANDATE ON MEDICAL RECORDS

The medical record entries for all mammals (except domestic rats and mice) used in basic/biomedical research must contain the following information.

1. Identity of the animal.
2. Descriptions of any illness, injury, distress, and/or behavioral abnormalities and the resolution of any problem noted.
3. Dates, details, and results (if appropriate) of all medically-related observations, examinations, tests, and other such procedures.
4. Dates and other details of all treatments, including the name, dose, route, frequency, and duration of treatment with drugs or other medications. (A “check-off” system to record when treatment is given each day may be beneficial.)

Treatment plans must include a diagnosis and prognosis, when appropriate. They must also detail the type, frequency, and duration of any treatment and the criteria and/or schedule for re-evaluation(s) by the attending veterinarian. In addition, the record must include the attending veterinarian’s recommendation concerning activity level or restrictions of the animal.