



## CHARLES RIVER WORLDWIDE

### Humane Care Initiative

" We are committed to responsibly producing the highest quality animals in the most humane environment for use in advancing the progress of science and the search for healthier lives."

[How to order](#)

This is one of Charles River Laboratories' core corporate values. To further solidify these beliefs, Charles River took it to the next level by recently implementing a Humane Care Initiative which goes well beyond the requirements set forth by the Animal Welfare Act. This initiative is designed to raise awareness and provide training to all Charles River employees on the importance of humane care to our animals and how appropriate care can impact research and potentially the success of drug development. Some key features of this program include a humane care presentation, posters promoting humane care of animals at all Charles River's sites, new hire orientation and examples of beneficial products which have been developed using laboratory animals. In our line of work, the importance of humane care is two-fold. Humane care is not only a moral imperative; it is a scientific necessity. Whether or not animals are treated with care and compassion can directly influence the success of a research protocol. If animals are not treated well or mishandled, they may suffer from stress-related disorders. A stressed animal is also more susceptible to disease and behavioral dysfunction.

As part of the training program under this campaign, the company reviews fictional case studies of contrived mishandling scenarios with employees. Participants in each training session analyze the implications of the handler's actions and discuss answers to a series of questions covering proper handling technique. In the future, should the employees find themselves in a similar situation, they will know what to do.

Charles River employees are required to sign a Humane Care Treatment Policy, which not only holds them accountable for their actions, but also informs them how important their role is in caring for the animals. The company has established a zero tolerance policy for all employees if animals are not treated with respect and compassion.

The scientific community is gaining a better

understanding of how living conditions, handling procedures and stress play an important role in an animal's psychological and physical well being. As animal caretakers and researchers, we have been given the responsibility for the stewardship of animals. Not only are we responsible to the scientific community for the health and well being of these animals, we are also responsible to society. Laboratory animals are a valuable resource in helping us further our knowledge of living systems and in the discovery of life saving drugs. Our Humane Care Initiative is just one of the many ways Charles River Laboratories is contributing to the search for healthier lives.

**How to Order:**

If you would like a copy of any or all of our humane care posters (16" x 20") for your facility, please e-mail [comments@criver.com](mailto:comments@criver.com) with your name, company, address and quantity desired or call 877-CRIVER1 (877-274-8371).

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