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Introduction

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We are very pleased to introduce the 9th edition of *The UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory and Other Research Animals*. The first edition of this book, published in 1947, was the first ever laboratory animal handbook published with the aim of improving the welfare of animals used in research, and it continues to be a key reference for those in the field. Putting the latest animal welfare science into practice to improve animal welfare is central to the mission of Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), and this handbook exemplifies this practical approach to improving the lives of animals.

The previous (8th) edition of the handbook was published in 2010. Chapters have been updated to reflect rapidly growing advances in the field, and new chapters have been added on nutrition, feeding and animal welfare (Chapter 14); 3Rs considerations when using ageing animals in science (Chapter 16); ethical review (Chapter 18); the naked mole rat (Chapter 26); corvids (Chapter 45); and zebrafish (Chapter 49).

Our thanks go to Dr. Robert Hubrecht, co-editor of the 8th edition of the handbook, who instigated this new edition before retiring as UFAW's chief executive in 2019. Although he retired before the project was complete, we are very grateful for his knowledge, insight and organisational skills, which were instrumental in initiating this project. We are also grateful for Dr. Hubrecht's longstanding commitment to promoting animal welfare and science. Our thanks also go to Dr. Birte Nielsen, Research Director of UFAW, for her editorial guidance, knowledge and encouragement in completing the handbook.

We are grateful to the Wiley publishing team, particularly Adalfin Jayasingh and Rathi Aravind, for their patience and professionalism throughout the production stage.

Our greatest thanks go to the members of the laboratory animal science and welfare community that came together to both write and peer-review the chapters of this handbook. Colleagues from around the world volunteered their time to provide their expertise and share their passion for animals and science to write the individual chapters. In addition, numerous anonymous referees generously volunteered their time and expertise to provide invaluable comments on draft chapters, which have significantly improved the contents of each.

It has not always been an easy journey, and progress was particularly difficult during the COVID pandemic, so we are grateful for the patience of the contributing authors who submitted chapters early in the production phase and to the resilience of the authors who submitted later on and endured our nagging emails. It has been our pleasure to learn from all those involved.

As a charity, UFAW relies on its members and donors to carry out its work, so we thank them as well as the UFAW staff and trustees, without whom we would not have been able to dedicate time and resources to produce this updated handbook.

As with previous editions, we have, as editors, aimed to ensure that the chapters reflect UFAW's approach to the care and husbandry of animals used in research; however, the chapters are the individual authors' work, and the views they have expressed should not be taken as UFAW's official opinions. Similarly, it is, of course, the responsibility of those working with animals to ensure that the practices they adopt comply with national legislation.

We hope that you find this handbook useful and that it helps to promote good welfare and good science.

