

The Use of Animals in Medical Device Testing



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Medical devices, including such products as pacemakers, implantable defibrillators, lasers, and infusion pumps, serve a direct and useful purpose in enhancing longevity and quality of life for both people and animals. Safety evaluation of medical devices is necessary to protect end users from unknown and unnecessary health risks. Safety assurance for medical devices is both a manufacturer's moral obligation and a legal requirement under a variety of federal statutes. The best methods for testing medical devices often include the use of animals.

The Massachusetts Society for Medical Research, Inc. (MSMR) supports the humane, appropriate, and judicious use of animals in these activities, provided that their acquisition is achieved in accordance with federal, state and local law, and that the highest standards for their care and welfare are maintained. ■

**Massachusetts Society for
Medical Research, Inc.**

73 Princeton Street
No. Chelmsford MA 01863

T: 978.251.1556

F: 978.251.7683

E: msmr@att.net

W: www.msmr.org