he institutional animal com-
mittee provided for in the
Animal Welfare Act (AWA) should be a crucial element in pub-
purification of the use of
animals in laboratories.
Such purview can then be
an important factor in se-
curing the humane and restrained use of
animals and in minimizing laboratory-
animal suffering. Public purview can lead to additional legislation for laboratory-
animal welfare, regulations implementing
that legislation, and more voluntary and
cooperative humane action by the institu-
tions and people using the animals.
We need to strengthen the status, makeup, and authority of the institutional animal
committee and increase its responsibility.

The potential for the institutional animal committee

This goal can be accomplished by court and other action constructing and enforcing exist-
ing laws, by new legislation improving those laws, and by assertive participation of people concerned about animal welfare.

These people should strive to be named to such committees and, once a member, stand firm for animal protection, even to the point of sacrificing a position, if necessary, in order to achieve the reforms needed for the protection of animals and the advancement of science.

The AWA specifically provides that the institutional animal committee "shall repre-
sent society's concerns regarding the welfare of animal subjects," and the nonaffiliated member "is intended to provide a represen-
tation for general community interests in the proper care and treatment of animals." But animal experimentation will be continued and research will be conducted on human beings and animals even if there is no commitment of funds to further research.

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