

## **Essential Steps Researchers Should Take: Coordinate with Research Institutions**

Researchers should not be responsible for defending their work against allegations made by animal activists. SfN members should work with their institutions to ensure actions will be taken in the event of an attack by animal activists.

- Institutions should have an administrative plan for defending allegations made by activists. If an institution does not have a plan, take responsibility to ensure there is a plan in place.
- At minimum, the plan should include:
  - Names and responsibilities of key people within the institution who should be contacted immediately if an incident occurs, e.g. security, administrative representative, veterinarian, animal care and use staff;
  - Name of the official spokesperson;
  - Lines of communication;
  - Security procedures;
  - Public relations procedures;
  - Support groups within the community to contact;
  - Other organizations to contact nationwide.
- Researchers should be familiar with their institution's plan and know who the official spokesperson is for responding to allegations.
- Place on file with the IACUC a request to be notified if there are any FOIA requests related to your research.