



American Association for Laboratory Animal Science Foundation

Press Release: AALAS Foundation Launches Partnership with Whyville

The AALAS Foundation and Whyville, an online destination where more than 5.3 million teens and pre-teens live a dynamic virtual life through their avatar, teamed up to create the Community Animal Research Environment (CARE). CARE is a vibrant, virtual world that teaches future leaders about the essential role of animals in biomedical research.

The partnership brought together Whyville's expertise in fostering learning in a virtual environment with the AALAS Foundation's experience educating young people about the benefits of biomedical research.

AALAS Foundation executive director Dr. Ann Turner said Whyville provides a unique platform to educate children about how animals help scientists in research—and how research, in turn, benefits animals.

"Whyville is a vibrant, kid-safe website that teaches kids about science in a fun, incredibly engaging manner," said Turner. "Partnering with Whyville enabled us with to create customized, interactive games to explain how biomedical research improves the quality of life of people and animals."

Inside CARE, Whyville citizens create habitats for animals, care for common laboratory animals, and discover how animal research generated cures and treatments for ailments impacting humans and animals.

Turner said it's critically important to find innovative ways to keep kids interested in science because research indicates that many students, especially girls, lose interest in science as they transition from elementary school to middle school.

"The health of biomedical research tomorrow depends on improved science preparation of our students today," said Turner. "Whyville is a powerful, critically-acclaimed tool the AALAS Foundation is using to promote public understanding, respect, and support for the life sciences."

Visit the [Whyville information page](#) to learn more about Whyville and the AALAS Foundation's innovative efforts to teach young people about the importance of quality laboratory animal care, research, and medicine.