The reproducibility of the results of animal experiments has been improved by the microbiological and genetic definition of the animals used. Of the other factors causing variation one of the most important is diet. With this in mind, the Medical Research Council Laboratory Animals Centre (LAC) set up in 1974 the Laboratory Animals Diets Advisory Committee. The report sets out the findings and recommendations of the Committee and deals first with generalities and then with the special requirements of particular species like rats and mice, guinea pigs, hamsters and other rodent species, rabbits and at least primates. The similarities between the requirements of the various common laboratory animals species are more striking than the differences. But primates, which include representatives from both New and Old World groups, have been shown to differ to a certain extent in nutritional characteristics and therefore this review of the diet in primates on two pages is very short and not generally valid for all Prosimiae and Simiae. Finally, the value of this report is the comparison of the diets used for the common laboratory animals.

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