Are pie charts acceptable in a research article?

Is “sacrificed” acceptable terminology for the end of a mouse experiment?

Is “t test” or “t-test” preferable?

Editors look up style questions like these all the time, and we often find answers in the *AMA Manual of Style*. MD Anderson employees have free online access to this resource through the Research Medical Library.
The 11th edition of *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors* was published last year. It can be trusted for its information on everything from punctuation to nomenclature to ethical considerations.

Some of the information in the manual specifies the style used by JAMA Network journals (for example, how to format references and how to present numbers). However, most of the information is broadly useful in scientific publishing. For example, Chapter 4 on tables, figures, and multimedia provides great advice about effective ways to display data, and Chapter 11 on correct and preferred usage covers commonly misused scientific and medical terms. Chapter 14 covers nomenclature, such as that used for cancer staging and drug names.

To use the manual, go to https://www.amamanualofstyle.com/ while logged into the MD Anderson network. You should see the name of the institution and “Automatically signed in” near the top left of the screen (as circled in the screenshot above). If that doesn’t work, go to the Research Medical Library website at https://www3.mdanderson.org/library/, search for “AMA Manual 11th edition,” and click on “Available online.” On the manual homepage, you can either enter a topic in the search bar at the top right of the page or click on “Table of Contents” to browse (see the red arrows in the screenshot).

Users can also purchase a print version of the manual.

Answers to the questions above:

Pie charts should be avoided in scientific publications (Section 4.2.1, Statistical Graphs).

“Sacrificed” is considered a euphemism and should be changed to the more direct “killed,” “humanely killed,” or “euthanized” (Section 11.5, Jargon).

An italicized “t” and a space (“t test”) are preferred (Section 19.5, Glossary of Statistical Terms).

**Bibliography**
