Experimental Animal Welfare and Ethics

Academy of Athens

Highest Educational Institute

Founded with the Constitutional Decree of March 18th 1926, as an Academy of Sciences, Humanities and Fine Arts.

Academy of Athens

Biomedical Research Foundation is the Principle Research Center of the Academy
Experimental Animal Welfare and Ethics

Animal Welfare Law


Historical Overview


Present Situation

- Life sciences
- Biotechnology
- Medicine
- Politics
- Law
- Religion
- Philosophy
Experimental Animal Welfare and Ethics

Present Situation

- Animal welfare is the well-being of animals
- Bioethics (Greek bios, life; ethos, behavior)
- Do we discuss about welfare and ethics in other aspects of life?

**“Aware that human beings are an integral part of the biosphere, with an important role in protecting one another and other forms of life, in particular animals. Recognizing that, based on the freedom of science and research, scientific and technological developments have been, and can be, of great benefit to humankind in increasing, inter alia, life expectancy and improving the quality of life, and emphasizing that such developments should always seek to promote the welfare of individuals, families, groups or communities and humankind as a whole in the recognition of the dignity of the human person and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms.”**

Animal Experimentation

Animal experiments must only be designed and planned by persons who are sufficiently skilled and experienced.

Approved by the competent veterinary authority
Approved by the ethical committee of the hospital, foundation......

The 3R guide:

- **Replacement** refers to the preferred use of non-animal methods over animal methods whenever it is possible to achieve the same scientific aim.
- **Reduction** refers to methods that enable researchers to obtain comparable levels of information from fewer animals, or to obtain more information from the same number of animals.
- **Refinement** refers to methods that alleviate or minimize potential pain, suffering, or distress, and enhance animal welfare for the animals used.
Experimental Animal Welfare and Ethics

Animal Experimentation

The 3R guide:
• **Replacement** refers to the preferred use of non-animal methods over animal methods whenever it is possible to achieve the same scientific aim.

• **Reduction** refers to methods that enable researchers to obtain comparable levels of information from fewer animals, or to obtain more information from the same number of animals.

Use of statistical models, sharing data and resources use of technologies, such as imaging.

• **Refinement** refers to methods that alleviate or minimize potential pain, suffering, or distress, and enhance animal welfare for the animals used.

Prophylactic use of antibiotics and pain relief
Exception: If pain relief is conflicting due to research protocol ethically and scientifically justification should be provided.
Experimental Animal Welfare and Ethics

Animal Experimentation by:
• Veterinarians
• Medical doctors
• Dentists
• Scientists with proofs of skills and knowledge
• Staff with proofs of skills and knowledge

Experimental Animal Welfare and Ethics

Animal Experimentation:
• Acute
• Chronic
• Basic Research
• Clinical Research
• R&D of substances or products
• Education

Experimental Animal Welfare and Ethics

Animal Euthanasia
Euthanasia is derived from the Greek terms Eu meaning good and Thanatos meaning death. The term is usually used to describe ending the life of an individual animal in a way that minimizes or eliminates pain and distress. A good death is tantamount to the humane termination of an animal's life.

2000 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia
2013 AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals

TECAS-ITN Summer School 2014
Euthanasia is derived from the Greek terms *Eu* meaning good and *Thanatos* meaning death. The term is usually used to describe ending the life of an individual animal in a way that minimizes or eliminates pain and distress. A good death is tantamount to the humane termination of an animal's life.


2013 AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.