

## **T-3.6 Adopted Policy on the Use and Care of Animals used in Testing, Research and Training**

### **POLICY**

The WVA policy is, as long as animals are still required for research, testing and education, that such animals must be used humanely and with due consideration for their well-being. In that regard, the WVA endorses the following global guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals:

1. All use of laboratory animals must always be conducted in accordance with the animal welfare legislation and regulations in the country involved. Where legislation and regulations are not in place, ethical obligations to animals must be exercised until appropriate legislation, regulations or guidelines can be developed, using the WVA principles as a basis.
2. Laboratory animals should be kept and bred in an environment appropriate to their needs, health and well-being, unless the scientific objective specifically demands otherwise.
3. Experimental animal use should only be conducted in an establishment that is staffed by personnel that are trained appropriately. Laboratory animals should, where applicable, become adapted to human contact and trained carefully for the experimental procedures. The animal use program should be directed by a veterinarian or under that veterinarian's direct responsibility.
4. Procedures involving animals should be well designed before starting the experimentation so that any animals suffering is kept to a minimum. Special concern should be given to the selection of the appropriate model and the number of animals required to obtain valid results. There should be ethical consideration of the scientific procedure and the husbandry of the animals by a committee appointed for those purposes. The animal ethics committee shall have a veterinarian as one of its members.
5. Purpose-bred animals should be used where possible. The use of animals captured from the wild should be kept at a minimum and only involve research for conservation and control purposes.
6. Effort should be made to minimise and alleviate any animal suffering consistent with sound scientific practice and veterinary care. Procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain should be performed with pain-relieving drugs (sedatives, analgesics, or anaesthetics) and if necessary followed by intensive care by or under the guidance of a veterinarian. Re-use of animals in experiments that cause more than mild adverse effects should not be permitted, exceptions are experiments under general anaesthesia followed by euthanasia.
7. Euthanasia methods should be consistent with the scientific protocol and acceptable veterinary practice under the supervision of a veterinarian.

8. All individuals involved in the care and use of laboratory animals including veterinarians, animal care technicians, research technicians and scientists, should be subject to appropriate education and training programs.
9. The development of validated methods that reduce the number of animals, replace their use or refine the existing experimental techniques must be encouraged. Unnecessary duplication of experimentation must be avoided whenever possible.