

General Lines to Be Followed in the Ethics of Animal Models Studies for the Neuropsychiatric Disorders and Associated Manifestations

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Abstract

The topic of heated debate and even conflicts between scientists, followers of animal research, and the rights defenders of these beings, lab animals make a truly invaluable contribution to the evolution of knowledge. At present, the scientific world is predominant in the view that animal studies are necessary and acceptable considering that animal suffering must be reduced as much as possible. Research in the neuropsychiatric sphere or associated manifestations (e.g. irritable bowel syndrome – where our group has intensive research lately etc) and not only should be subject to the three principles known as 3 R: replacement (finding alternative methods to animal testing whenever possible); reduction (reducing the number of animals used to the minimum necessary to obtain relevant information); refinement (improving methods and procedures so as to cause as little suffering or stress to the animals as possible and to provide better living conditions for them).

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