

Statement about Veterinarians and Experimental Animals

The Experimental Animal is an animal like any other – except for its special function in our society. Experimental Animals (EA) support both human society as well as animals by enabling an understanding of anatomy, physiology, behaviour, disease pathogenesis and reactions to different compounds.

From an ethical point of view, we are responsible for them.

Veterinarians have the knowledge and the skills concerning animal health, animal welfare and Vet Public Health – as well as for Experimental Animals. This is similar to a Veterinarian's responsibility for maintaining quality along the way in the food production area.

“FROM THE STABLE TO THE TABLE”,

The Veterinarian is the appropriate professional to guarantee quality of health and welfare.

“FROM THE BREEDING TO THE TEST”.

The latter consists of different steps: breeding - transport - quarantine - husbandry - test and test interpretation (pathology).

All steps have to be checked regularly by experienced professionals; the Veterinarian.

Animal health and welfare according to “ONE WORLD, ONE HEALTH, ONE WELFARE” position should not be restricted by borders. A common approach is essential to achieve a global harmonisation.

Therefore, it is essential that directives like the EU Directives 609/2006 are functioning and deliver a reference point for further international harmonisation. They should be periodically reviewed and finally transferred into national laws. The support and cooperation between Veterinary organisations such as FVE, ESLAV, ECLAM and others such as FELASA is needed for the benefit of the animals.

It is important to understand that high quality results may only be obtained from high quality animals and vice versa, meaning only such animals will deliver reliable and reproducible results.

Our duty as veterinarians is not limited to diagnosis, treatment and prophylaxis. As experts on and advocates for animals and their rights, we must also strive for the implementation of the 3Rs concept (replace, reduce, refine).

No matter what function an animal has, every improvement starts with the education of its vet. We are the experts. Let`s go together for ONE WORLD, ONE HEALTH, ONE WELFARE!