

Guiding Principles for the Care and Use of Animals in the Field of Physiological Science

The Physiological Society of Japan

Animal research requires detailed planning and must be executed incorporating not only scientific principles, but also ethical considerations and a regard for animals welfare. Important regulations and guidelines to meet requirements are contained in the following publications: —

'Standards Relating to the Care and Management, etc. of Experimental Animals, Notification of Japanese Prime Minister's Office, 1980' ;

'International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals, CIOMS, 1984' ;

'Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 85-23, 1985' ;

'Guide for Animal Experimentation, Japanese Association for Laboratory Animals Science, 1987' ; and

'Guiding Principles for Animals Experiment using Non-human Primates, Primate Society of Japan, 1986' ;

In furtherance of these objectives and in response to enquiries from members. The Physiological Society of Japan (hereafter Called "The Society") recommends compliance with 'guiding Principles for the Care and Use of Animals in the Field of Physiological Science'.

Animal experiments are an unavoidable necessity in pursuing teaching and research activities in the field of Physiological sciences. Results obtained from such programmes have contributed much to understanding the scientific function of the living body. Their application to medical and veterinary science and therapeutics have played an important role in the development of human and animal health and welfare. So that even greater developments in education and research in this field may take place. The Society urges all Japanese Physiologists to adopt these guiding principles. It is The Society's intention that all animal experiments should be designed and conducted on a valid scientific and ethical basis and that sufficient consideration must be given to animal welfare.

I . General Principles

- (1) Animal experiments are to be undertaken only for the purpose of advancing physiological knowledge, and enhancing the well-being of human and animals.
- (2) Consideration should be given on a scientific basis to the most suitable species of animals to be used and the numbers required.
- (3) Investigators should employ anesthesia, sedation and correct handling teaching techniques appropriate to the procedures to be performed in order to avoid unnecessary pain and stress in the animals. In particular, before investigators proceed to conduct an experiment using only a light level of anesthesia, or employing a neuromuscular blocking agent, an application should be made to the Animal Research Committee in their institutes. This procedure is especially recommended and where permission is given it will be on an assurance that the intensity and duration of the pain are estimated to be minimal, consistent with

achieving the objective of the experiment.

- (4) When animals are to be disposed of after experiments have been completed, they should, in accordance with notification issued from Prime Minister's Office (1980), be killed humanely by administering a lethal dose of anesthetic or by some other recognised means taking into account their species and size.
- (5) Experimental animals must be accommodated in proper housing, and provided with sufficient food and water, thus protecting their welfare and maintaining them in a hygienic environment.

II . Specific Recommendation

- (1) Animal experiments must be performed in specially designated areas where adequate facilities are available in order to ensure the welfare of the animals. The organization and management of the experimental animal facilities must be well planned and the animal caretakers concerned with husbandry and routine care must be competent to perform their tasks in a satisfactory manner.
- (2) In conformity with a well defined experimental protocol, each experimenter must have assessed the suitability of the species of animal to be used and of the experimental methodology selected. Animals maintained in satisfactory conditions should be used. Consultation with, and advice from, experienced laboratory animal scientists are recommended.
- (3) The experimenter must select with care the species and strain of animal most suitable for the experimental purpose in terms of genetic and microbiological quality. The person in charge of the facility is responsible for seeing that the relevant regulations and internal rules are followed.
- (4) The experimenter should inspect the animals and provide for quarantine condition in a proper manner. Records of the animals both during the breeding stage and when issued for use must be maintained. This work may be delegated to the manager of the animal facilities.
- (5) Full consideration must be paid to the avoidance of compromising results by protecting the animals from environmental contamination in the animal facilities. The safety of humans handling physically and chemically hazardous substances or pathogens must also be assured. In addition, special attention should be given to the maintenance of good hygienic practices throughout the animal facilities, with due regard to the fabric of the building and its equipment.
- (6) All experimenters must comply with regulations and decisions made by the Animal Research Committee in that institute.
- (7) All experimenters are urged by The Society to conform with these guiding principles and recommendations. That they have done so should be stated by investigators when they report their experimental work for publication purposes.

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