

CALAM/ACMAL POSITION:
STATEMENT ON THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH, TEACHING AND TESTING

The Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine/ L'association canadienne pour la médecine des animaux de laboratoire (CALAM/ACMAL), representing Canadian veterinarians working in the field of laboratory animal medicine, accepts that animals will continue to be used in research, teaching and testing in the pursuit of knowledge aimed at improving the health, well-being and/or quality of life for both animals and humans.

It is the primary responsibility of the laboratory animal veterinarian to ensure not only the health and well-being, but also the welfare of animals used in research, teaching and testing.

CALAM/ACMAL supports the principle that such animal use is acceptable if animals receive appropriate veterinary care at all times, as defined in the CALAM/ACMAL document "Statement of Veterinary Care".

CALAM/ACMAL further supports the ethical principles embodied in the "Three R's" tenet of Russell and Burch (1959):

- Reduction of the number of animals to the minimum required to yield a valid result.
- Refinement of procedures so as to reduce the stress placed on experimental animals and yield more, uniform results, thereby reducing the number of animals used.
- Replacement, wherever possible, of experimental animals with non-sentient alternatives.

This position requires that the veterinarian be involved in issues and activities relating to the care and use of all species of animals, and that the institution accords the veterinarian the proper authority and support to ensure that adequate veterinary care can be provided. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Provision of anesthesia and analgesia, in a proper and effective manner, to ensure that unnecessary pain and distress are avoided.
- Ensuring exemplary standards in surgery, post-operative care and other interventions, in accordance with current veterinary standards. These standards should also be practised in the area of management, housing, care, restraint and treatment of animals.
- Recognition and support of CCAC policies, guidelines and recommendations regarding the care and treatment of experimental animals.

The laboratory animal veterinarian should:

- Demonstrate commitment to responsible animal use and provide a leadership role in all matters relating to animal physical and psychological well-being.
- Be knowledgeable of what constitutes animal well-being; upgrade existing standards and re-evaluate conventional teaching or research methods.
- Be conversant with CCAC policies, guidelines, recommendations and, where applicable, the legislation affecting the use of animals in research, teaching and testing.
- Support the institutional Animal Care Committee in carrying out its mandate.