

**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

Research is approved under the principles of the 3Rs, those being to aim to **replace** the use of animals in scientific procedures with non-animal alternatives wherever possible, to **reduce** the number of animals used in experiments to a minimum and, in cases where animals do have to be used, to ensure that housing and procedures are **refined** to minimize the risk of any adverse impact on their welfare.

The icddr,b as an international scientific organization should, like any such body, institute and follow AEEC prescribed guidelines for the use of animals for bio-medical experimentation.

- a) Scientists must clearly justify the use of animals; and demonstrate that the experiment cannot be performed in vitro.
- b) Laboratory animals must be kept under care of professionally qualified persons and according to internationally accepted husbandry practices specific to each animal species. This relates to space, type and frequency of intake of food and water, bedding, temperature and adequate ventilation. They should be regularly inspected and their well-being be assessed, cages cleaned and bedding replaced according to the regulations.
- c) Animals should be handled in accordance with the accepted procedures specific for each species of animals by suitably qualified persons.
- d) Procedures to be performed on animals must be such that they are within the acceptable norms, and attempts should be made at all times to minimize the pain associated with each procedure.
- e) Whenever possible, procedures should be carried out using local or general anesthesia appropriate for the particular species of animal.
- f) As soon as illness is apparent, animals used for experiments should be sacrificed humanely.
- g) In procedures that require starvation, the duration of withdrawal of food should be kept to a minimum.
- h) Upon completion of each experiment, animals should immediately be sacrificed humanely applying the method prescribed for the particular species.
- i) Scientists should provide justification as to the number of animals required for each experiment. While adequate numbers should be used to generate statistically significant findings, the number should nevertheless be kept to a minimum.
- j) Whenever possible handling of animals should be done by the Animal Resources Branch (ARB) personnel. Veterinarians from the ARB should be involved in designing and executing of each study involving the use of experimental animals.