

Review article

Animal ethics: Review

Tayade MC , Latti RG

Department of Physiology, Rural Medical College,
Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Loni, Tal. Rahata , Dist. Ahmednager , Maharashtra , India - 413736

***Corresponding author:** Email: drmctayade@gmail.com

Date of submission: 04 January 2017, Date of publication: 30 March 2017

Source of support: Nil ; Conflict of Interest : Nil

Abstract:

Animal ethics is a term used to describe human-animal relationships and how animals ought to be treated during research activity. Animal ethics includes area of ethical animal handling, animals living condition standards, animal rights and animal law . Ethical handling of animals means to respect them as individual. All basic principles of medical bioethics are applicable to animals. In ethical handling practices there number of regulations implemented by various countries as per their need. But the common issue in all of them is to prevent pain or injury to animals. Use of defined animals in appropriate conditions will reduce the stress on the animals and will result in generating reproducible and reliable results. A thorough knowledge of the biological characteristics and husbandry requirements of the species to be used is essential to ensure animal welfare. It is obligatory on the part of Investigators/students to handle the animals gently, following the guidelines of ethical consideration for animal use. These guidelines provide the basic minimum provisions for animal care in medical colleges using animals for teaching / research purposes and those where breeding of such animals is also undertaken. It is hoped that the medical fraternity will find these guidelines useful to ensure the welfare of the animals.

Introduction:

Animal ethics is a term used to describe human-animal relationships and how animals ought to be treated during research activity. Animal ethics includes area of ethical animal handling, animals living condition standards, animal rights and animal law . Ethical handling of animals means to respect them as individual. All basic principles of medical bioethics are applicable to animals. In ethical handling practices there number of regulations implemented by various countries as per their need. But the common issue in all of them is to prevent pain or injury to animals.

Animal rights and animal laws in India:

The Prevention of cruelty to animals Act, 1960 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and to amend the laws relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals. As per the provisions of the law the government of India formed the Animal Welfare Board of India.

The **Animal Welfare Board of India** is a statutory advisory body advising the Government of India on animal welfare laws, and promotes animal welfare in the country of India It works to ensure that animal welfare laws in the country are followed; provides grants to Animal Welfare Organizations; and

considers itself "the face of the animal welfare movement in the country

Concerned about the abuse of animals in research, in the Board's early history, it recommended that the government create the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). The Committee was created, and the Board's representative Dr. S. Chinnay Krishna deposed twice before the Committee about "the dismal state of laboratories in India

PETA India, which based in Mumbai, was launched in January 2000. PETA India operates under the simple principle that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on or use for entertainment, while educating policymakers and the public about animal abuse and promoting an understanding of the right of all animals to be treated with respect.

PETA India focuses primarily on the areas in which the greatest numbers of animals suffer the most: in the food and leather industries, in laboratories and in the entertainment industry. PETA India's investigative work, public education efforts, research, animal rescues, legislative work, special events, celebrity involvement and national media coverage have resulted in countless improvements to the quality of life for animals and have saved countless animals' lives.

Maneka Gandhi is a famous environmentalist and animal rights leader in India. She has earned international awards and acclaim for her contribution and constant work in issue concern with animal rights. She was appointed chairwoman of the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) in 1995. Under her direction, CPCSEA members carried unannounced inspections of laboratories

where animals are used for scientific research were conducted.

She has filed Public Interest Litigations that have achieved the replacement of the municipal killing of homeless dogs with a sterilisation programme, the unregulated sale of airguns and a ban on mobile or travelling zoos. She currently chairs the Jury of International Energy Globe Foundation which meets annually in Austria to award the best environmental innovations of the year. She is a member of the Eurosolar Board and the Wuppertal Institute, Germany.

She started the gathering people for Animals rights in 1992 and it is the largest organisation for animal rights/welfare in India. Maneka Gandhi is also a patron of International Animal Rescue. She is a vegan and has advocated this lifestyle on ethical and health grounds. She also anchored a weekly Television program named "Heads and Tails" highlighting sufferings meted out to animals due to their commercial exploitation. She has also authored a book under the same title. Her other books were about Indian people names. She is a cast member for the documentary A Delicate Balance.

World animal day, as 4 October was started in 1931 at a convention of ecologists in Florence.

Guidelines for use of Laboratory animals in Medical Colleges under "Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals"

(CPCSEA) Laws :

Guidelines for use of Laboratory animals in Medical Colleges preface laboratory animals used in medical colleges play an important role in teaching / research as well as developing skills for diagnosis.

Here the animal is almost exclusively used as a substitute or model for man as most laboratory

animals have the same set of organs heart, lungs, liver and so on which work in the same way as they do in humans. Knowledge gained from animal experiments enhances the understanding of the subjects like Physiology, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Biochemistry etc.

Animal experiments give an insight to the students about the etiology, diagnosis, progression and methods of prevention of various diseases.

Commonly used animals in medical colleges are frogs, rats, mice, rabbits, guinea pigs, cats, dogs, monkeys and to lesser extent sheep.

Use of defined animals in appropriate conditions will reduce the stress on the animals and will result in

generating reproducible and reliable results. A thorough knowledge of the biological characteristics and husbandry requirements of the species to be used is essential to ensure animal welfare. It is obligatory on the part of Investigators/students to handle the animals gently, following the guidelines of ethical consideration for animal use. These guidelines provide the basic minimum provisions for animal care in medical colleges using animals for teaching / research purposes and those where breeding of such animals is also undertaken. It is hoped that the medical fraternity will find these guidelines useful to ensure the welfare of the animals.

References:

1. Mirowski, Nick. "Rights Group Targets Circus", *The Washington Post*, September 21, 2006.
2. For PETA's material, see "Carson & Barnes Trainer Videotaped Beating, Shocking Elephants", PETA, July 6, 2006, accessed June 26, 2010; and PETA undercover video of Tim Frisco, animal care director of the Carson & Barnes Circus, training elephants, PETA.tv.com (video), accessed June 26, 2010.
3. Kansa, Heba. "PETA releases video of angora rabbit investigation in China", CBS News, November 20, 2013.
4. Kansa, Heba. "World's largest clothing retailer drops angora wool after talks with PETA", CBS News, February 11, 2015.
5. Elejalde-Ruiz, Alexia. "Zara parent bans sales of Angora wool, donates fur to Syrian refugees", *Chicago Tribune*, September 30, 2015.
6. Schechter, Anna. "PETA: There's No Such Thing as Humane Wool", NBC News, July 8, 2014.
7. Drape, Joe. "PETA Accuses Two Trainers of Cruelty to Horses", *The New York Times*, March 19, 2014.
8. Drape, Joe. "Steve Asmussen Fined for Violating Horse Racing's Drug Rules", *The New York Times*, November 23, 2015.
9. Coyle, Haley. "Skinned alive and clubbed to death - the sick secrets of China's dog leather trade", *The Daily Mirror*, December 20, 2014.
10. "Undercover Investigation: Dogs Bludgeoned and Killed in Leather Industry", PETA.org, accessed October 6, 2015.
11. Moyer, Justin Wm. "Another Whole Foods mess: Abuse alleged at pig farm linked to chain", *The Washington Post*, September 21, 2015.
12. Mitchell, Dan. "Whole Foods hit with another lawsuit", *Fortune*, September 23, 2015.
13. Gibson, Kate. "The price of luxury? Storied brand tied to animal abuse", CBS News, June 24, 2015.
14. Luscombe, Richard. "'Monkeygate' scandal hits Florida as breeding farms face abuse investigation", *The Guardian*, July 6, 2015.

15. CBS News. "Calif. restaurants serving live, squirming octopus taking heat from PETA", CBSNews.com, November 17, 2016.
16. Runyon, Luke. "Judge Strikes Down Idaho 'Ag-Gag' Law, Raising Questions For Other States", NPR, August 4, 2015.
17. Runyon, Luke. "Federal Lawsuit Filed Over North Carolina Anti-Whistleblower Law", EcoWatch, January 13, 2016.
18. Valentine, Katie. "How ALEC Has Undermined Food Safety by Pushing 'Ag Gag' Laws Across The Country", ThinkProgress, March 19, 2013.
19. Interlandi, Jeneen. "PETA and Euthanasia: Even among animal lovers, killing unwanted pets is a divisive issue." *Newsweek*, April 28, 2008.