

CIVIS STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

1. All animal experiments must be rejected on both ethical and medical-scientific grounds.
2. Animal experimentation destroys respect for life and makes empathy toward the suffering of human patients impossible. Callousness towards animals turns imperceptibly but inevitably into callousness towards human beings.
3. Animal experimentation is not an appropriate way to diagnose, research or cure human diseases. The organic, anatomical, biological, metabolic, genetic, histological and psychological differences between humans and animals are so substantial that knowledge obtained from animals is not only worthless, but also misleading and dangerous when applied to humans, especially the sick (drug catastrophes, therapeutic errors, etc.).
4. Animal experiments are by no means carried out in the interest of humanity, but rather in the interest of the experimenters themselves and their employers, as there has never been a single scientific, statistical proof that the results of animal experiments are applicable to human beings, whereas the evidence of the harmfulness of animal experimentation to humans are countless.
5. Animal experiments lull the public, especially doctors and patients, into a false sense of security that deters them from preventing illnesses and from understanding and treating them as an all-encompassing phenomenon.
6. The requirements of healthcare are not met by animal experimentation. Most of today's diseases are not organic in origin, but rather have psychological, social, nutritional and environmental causes or originate from therapeutic errors. All these factors cannot be reproduced in their complexity in animals. That is why today's modern medicine has no causal treatments to offer. It cannot even cure the common cold, let alone rheumatism, arthritis, cancer, nor any of the other diseases which have plagued humanity for millennia. On the contrary, modern medicine has only managed to bring about an increase in such illnesses, while at the same time producing new diseases, such as SMON, herpes, AIDS, etc. By relieving only the symptoms, modern medicine is prevented from recognizing the causes of diseases.
7. In Germany alone, 3 billion DM are squandered yearly for animal experiments. Consequently, funding for safe, reliable research methods directly applicable to humans, including epidemiological studies on population groups, clinical investigations of patients, etc., is often insufficient or completely lacking. The situation in Switzerland is similarly deplorable, where the use of laboratory animals in relation to the size of the population is the highest in the world, but whose state of health is one of the worst in Europe as the high consumption of medications proves.
8. While good health depends primarily on prevention and individual lifestyle, cures for diseases can in no way be obtained by experimenting on animals, but rather by the expanding and integrating of some of the many disciplines that have been widely neglected by today's profit-oriented modern medicine, such as dietetics, psychotherapy, psychosomatics, clinical observation of human patients, vegetarianism, etiology, epidemiology, homeopathy, naturopathy, such diverse nutritional disciplines as Bircher-Benner, Kollath, etc., herbal medicine, aromatherapy, electrotherapy, hydrotherapy, heliotherapy, diathermy, acupuncture, chiropractic, macrobiotics, and more, which have proven to be more successful and economical than the conventional methods of today's modern medicine.
9. Human medicine must look after the entire patient, as well as adopt methods of research and treatment that relate directly to patients and to the causes of diseases. Medical research must refrain from animal experimentation which, being a veterinary medicine for humans, at best replaces acute symptoms with chronic illnesses.
10. The education of veterinarians should follow the same humanitarian principles as the education of medical doctors: no arbitrary, injurious procedures inflicted on healthy animals, in order to cause artificial diseases and mutilations (and which lead to a callousness on the part of the students), but rather careful observation and respectful treatment of spontaneously occurring diseases and unavoidable injuries. The total abolition (by law) of animal experiments is therefore not only possible, but absolutely essential.

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