

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

(CPSCEA Registration # 2058/GO/Re/SL/19/CPCSEA)
SARDAR VALLABH BHAI PATEL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE &
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Date:

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for IAEC As per CPCSEA

1. Objective:

The motto of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act 1960 as amended in 1982, is to prevent infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals. The Central Government as enumerated under PCA Act 1960 has constituted a Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) which is duty bound to take all such measures as may be necessary to ensure that animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering before, during or after the performance of experiments on them. For this purpose, the Government has made "Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998" as amended during 2001 and 2006, to regulate the experimentation on animals.

The objective of this SOP is to contribute to the effective functioning of the Institutional Animals Ethics Committee (IAEC) so that a quality and consistent ethical review mechanism for research on animals is put in place for all proposals dealt by the Committee as prescribed by the CPCSEA under PCA Act 1960 and Breeding of and Experimentation (Control and Supervision) Rules 1998, as amended in 2001 and 2006.

2. IAEC has been designed to secure the following objectives:

- a) Every experiment shall be performed by or under the supervision of a person duly qualified in that behalf, that is, Degree holders in Veterinary Science or Medicine or Laboratory Animal Science of a University or an Institution recognised by the Government for the purpose and under the responsibility of the person performing the experiment;
- b) That experiments are performed with due care and humanity and as far as possible experiments involving operations are performed under the influence of some anaesthetic of sufficient power to prevent the animals from feeling pain;
- c) That animals who, in the course of experiments under the influence of anaesthetics, are so injured that their recovery would involve serious suffering, are ordinarily medically allowed to death while still under influence of anaesthetic;
- d) That experiments on animals are avoided wherever it is possible to do so.

- e) That experiments on larger animals are avoided when it is possible to achieve the same results by experiments on small laboratory animals like guinea-pigs, rabbits, mice, rats etc;
- f) That, as far as possible, experiments are not performed merely for the purpose of acquiring manual skill;
- g) That animals intended for the performance of experiments are properly looked after before, during and after experiments;
- h) That suitable records are maintained with respect to experiments performed on animals

3. Functions of IAEC

As defined in "Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998"
"Institutional Animals Ethics Committee (IAEC)" means a body comprising of a group of persons recognized and registered by the Committee for the purpose of control and supervision of experiments on animals performed in an establishment which is constituted and operated in accordance with procedures specified for the purpose by the Committee;

The primary duty of IAEC is to work for achievement of the objectives as mentioned above. IAEC should focus mainly on ensuring ethical and methodical handling of animals during and after experiments, so that they have less suffering.

IAEC will review and approve all types of protocols for research involving small animal experimentation before the start of the study. For approval of experimentation on large animals, the case is required to be forwarded to CPCSEA in prescribed manner with recommendation of IAEC.

IAEC is required to monitor the research throughout the study and after completion of study, IAEC shall obtain the periodic reports on research development and shall ensure visit to animal house facility and laboratory where the experiments are conducted. The committee has to ensure compliance with all regulatory requirements, applicable rules, guidelines and laws.

4. Decision-making of IAEC of the Establishment:

- a) Members will discuss all the related issues concerning the welfare of animals before arriving at a consensus decision.
- b) A member should withdraw from the meeting during the decision procedure concerning an application where a *conflict of interest arises* and this should be informed to the chairperson prior to the review of the application and the same should be recorded in the minutes.
- c) Decisions of IAEC shall be valid where the quorum of IAEC is complete.
- d) Only members of IAEC can vote for the decision. The experts / investigators / invitees may only offer their opinions.

- e) In case of research protocols on small animals, the IAEC of the establishment shall be empowered to grant approval for experiment on animals considering the welfare of the animals. For carrying out the experiment on large animals, approval of CPCSEA is a must and IAEC may only recommend the research protocol for consideration of CPCSEA. Specific suggestions for modifications in the research protocol and reasons for rejection should be clearly indicated.
- f) In cases of conditional decisions on research protocol, suggestions for subsequent review and the procedure for having the application reviewed may be specified clearly.
- g) Modified proposals may be reviewed by an expedited review through identified members.
- h) Procedures for appeal by the researchers should be clearly defined by the respective IAEC.

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