



French transparency Charter on the use of animals for scientific and regulatory purposes

Biological and medical research aims to continuously increase scientific knowledge, improve human and veterinary medical therapies as well as better protect humans, animals and the environment.

Research, basic and applied alike, needs models to progress and evolve. It requires an integrated approach of synergic experimental methods based on data processing (in silico), biochemistry, cell and tissue culture (in vitro) and the use of living animals (in vivo), as well as clinical data. In silico and in vitro models are widely used, but are unable, based on current knowledge, to fully replace animal models. In order to carry out top quality research, the use of animal-based models remains therefore necessary.

The use of animals for the development and production of drugs for both humans and animals, also needs to meet safety and efficacy regulatory requirements. In the veterinary field, the studies are carried out on the animals for which the products are intended.

In accordance with the legal provisions of the Rural Code and the Civil Code, and by virtue of their convictions, the signatories of this Charter recognize that animals are living beings endowed with sensitivity. The use of animals in scientific and medical research is framed by specific regulations which protect them, ensure their well-being and enforce compliance of ethical rules.

Every citizen has the right to comprehensive, clear and accurate information regarding the reasons and conditions for the use of animals for scientific or regulatory purposes, but also the regulatory framework that guides this use, as well as the scientific and medical progress that result from it.

To this end, the signatories of this charter, research establishments, laboratories developing drugs for humans or animals, their partners and their representatives, make four commitments:

1 To explain the reasons and conditions for using animals for scientific and regulatory purposes

- We are committed to respect a principle of transparency and openness regarding our practices around the use of animals for scientific or regulatory purposes.
- We inform the people working within our establishments but also outside the establishments that we carry out or participate in the realization of animal studies. We specify the reasons and conditions, whenever possible, without compromising the confidentiality of the people involved and the experiments.
- When we communicate on our progress, we specify the role of animal and non-animal models in these developments.

2 To disseminate information to the general public and the media

- We are committed to making information on the use of animals for scientific or regulatory purposes accessible to the general public and to the media.
- Thus, information on the use of animals in basic or applied research and for the development of human and veterinary drugs will be comprehensive to all and easily accessible on the different communication platforms of the establishments, including the institutional websites.

3 To ease information flow with the general public and the media

- We are committed to assist and encourage exchanges with the general public and communicate about them.
- Different methods of interaction will be put in place, such as implementing a point of contact for the media and individuals or setting up meetings with the public.

4 To produce an annual document outlining the progress regarding public information

- It is necessary to follow up on commitments to ensure the success of the charter. To this end, we will report in an annual synthetic document, the actions carried out following the signature of the charter.

