Integrating Ethics and Ethology in Laboratory Animal Welfare Research

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Message from the Guest Editors

Since the publication of The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique by William Russell and Rex Burch in 1959, the quality of experimental data has been considered to go hand-in-hand with animal welfare. The quality of life of experimental animals is now understood by the scientific community as both a scientific and an ethical issue.

One of the possibilities of assuring an adequate level of welfare of experimental animals is to respect species-specific ethological and ecological needs. Bernard Rollin was the one who specifically indicated the respect of the "telos" of a particular individual (its identity as a member of a particular species) as a pre-requisite for an ethically inclined use of animals for human needs.

This attention to a species' natural ethogram leads to the acquisition of more "ecological" data in minimizing the effects of the artificial environment of a laboratory.

In this Special Issue, we would like to welcome contributions from colleagues who have embraced such philosophy and have successfully applied an ethological perspective when realizing their experimental protocols.

Special Issue

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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