

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS RULES (EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS) 5761-2001

By virtue of its powers under section 4(1), (2) and (4) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Law (experiment on animals) 5754-1994 (hereafter: the Law) and with the approval of the Minister of Health, the Council for Experiments on Animals (hereafter: the Council) hereby makes these Rules in order to ascertain minimization of the suffering caused to animals and to prevent unnecessary experiments:

Definitions

1. In these Rules -
 - "the Committee" - the Committee that issues permits for experiments under sections 13, 14 or 19 of the Law, as the case may be;
 - "institutional permit" - a permit to conduct experiments issued to an institution, as said in section 12 of the Law;
 - "NRC Rules" - the booklet "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals", published by the National Research Council of the United States (NRC), which is available to the public at the library of the Ministry of Health in Jerusalem, and on the Internet sites of the National Research Council of the United States and the Ministry of Health of the Israel Government, as updated from time to time;
 - "experiment" - the smallest possible series of acts performed on an animal, which is necessary in order to achieve the objective of the experiment;
 - "experiment that involves little suffering" - each of the following:
 - (1) biopsy or other small surgical operation without subsequent significant pain;
 - (2) keeping awake animals in movement restricting cages for up to ten minutes;
 - (3) behavioral experiments accompanied by minimal stress;
 - (4) installing small permanent implants;
 - (5) other acts, in the course of which no greater a level of suffering is caused, than in those said in paragraphs (1) to (4).

Institutional permit

2. (a) An application for an institutional permit shall be submitted to the Council, in writing, by the director of the institution; the application shall include the name of the veterinarian employed as said in section 12(2) of the Law, and the set of guidelines required by section 12(1) of the Law shall be attached to it.
- (b) The Council shall grant the institution a permit after it approved the set of guidelines that was attached to the application and after it received certification from the Council veterinarian that - on a visit he made to the institution - he found that the conditions under which animals are kept at the institution comply with the requirements of section 4.

Permit for an experiment

3. (a) An application for a permit to conduct an experiment on animals shall be submitted to the Council on the Form in the Schedule.
- (b) An aforesaid application for a permit for an experiment shall be submitted by the head researcher, who will be in charge of the experiment for which the permit is requested.
- (c) The Committee may demand additional particulars from the applicant, such as it deems necessary in order to decide whether to grant a permit for the experiment.
- (d) The Committee may grant a permit for the experiment as proposed in the application, reject the application or approve it with changes, on conditions or with restrictions.
- (e) The Committee shall grant a permit for an experiment only if it is convinced that the provisions of the Law and of these Rules will be complied with in the proposed experiment.

Conditions in the animal house

4. Animals in an animal house shall be kept under the conditions specified in the NRC Rules.

Conducting experiments

5. The NRC Rules shall apply to the following acts:
 - (1) the acquisition and transport of animals;
 - (2) the physical restraint of animals;
 - (3) the identification of pain;
 - (4) tranquilization and anesthesia;
 - (5) euthanasia of the animals.

Additional experiment on an animal that already underwent an experiment

6. The Committee shall not grant a permit for an additional experiment on an animal, on which one experiment already was carried out, unless one of the following applies:
 - (1) The Committee is convinced that the experiment already carried out involved little suffering; when application is made to permit an additional experiment on an animal on which more than one experiment already was carried out, then the Committee shall consider whether the aggregate of previous experiments does not justify rejecting the application;
 - (2) the animal will be anesthetized at the beginning of the additional experiment and will be killed at its conclusion, without regaining consciousness in its course.

Economic considerations

7. The Committee shall not give a permit for an additional experiment on an animal only because using an additional animal would involve a considerable monetary outlay.

Examination of permits in the Council

8. Every year the Council shall hold a special session for an examination of the permits for additional experiments under section 6, which had been issued in the preceding year, in order to weigh whether a change of these Rules is necessary.

Training course for the minimalization of suffering

9. (a) Training in the minimalization of suffering of laboratory animals, which is a condition for authorization by the Institute director of an institute employee as a qualified researcher, shall be by means of a course that will be held at the institute, or in one of the ways said in section 10.
- (b) The Council shall approve a course after it received the curriculum from the institution that conducts it and after it is satisfied that the course can train the researcher in the minimalization of suffering by the laboratory animals, on which he will conduct experiments after he is qualified.
- (c) The person who conducts the course will decide at its conclusion - on the basis of academic criteria - whether each of the participants met the requirements of the course.
- (d) The course will qualify its participants to conduct experiments on the kinds of animals with which the course dealt, and they will have to undergo additional training to become qualified for experiments on other varieties of animals.
- (e) The course shall include at least the following subjects:
 - (1) the definition of environmental and microbiological factors that affect the behavior and the biology of laboratory animals, and how they work;
 - (2) a survey of the main genetic groupings of laboratory animals and their influence on the research;
 - (3) detailed ethical rules on the use of animals - the contribution to scientific research, the fundamental principles of minimizing the number of animals in an experiment, finding alternatives to experiments with animals, moderation of experimental methods, legal principles, and the ethical system in the country and in the institution;
 - (4) description of the animal varieties, with which the course deals;
 - (5) the significance of having different kinds of equipment and means for the enhancement of research;
 - (6) the biology and behavior of animals and the importance of different anatomical variables;
 - (7) particulars of materials, dosages and methods for the minimization of suffering, for reduction of pain, for anesthesia and euthanasia;
 - (8) particulars of methods for injections and for taking blood samples.
- (f) The chairman of the Council shall appoint two council members with academic appointments for the constant supervision of standards of study at the course; this provision shall not apply to a course under academic supervision.

Additional training methods

10. (a) Under exceptional circumstances the director of an institution may award qualification to an employee of the institution, if he is convinced that that employee has many years of experience in the conduct of experiments on animals and consequently is skilled in the sphere of minimizing the suffering of laboratory animals.
- (b) The director of an institution may award qualification to an employee of the institution, if successfully passed special training by a qualified head researcher who engages in the same research (hereafter: the head researcher), in coordination with the veterinarian employed by that institution under section 12(2) of the Law; such training shall include at least the following:
- (1) explanations on the correct handling of laboratory animals, the use of alternatives, and minimization of the suffering of animals used in experiments;
 - (2) a practical demonstration of the experiment on animals, in which the employee will engage;
 - (3) the conduct of at least two experiments on animals by the head researcher in the employee's presence.
- The said qualification shall be only for a six month period, after the head researcher signed an undertaking that every experiment on animals carried out by the employee will be under his supervision and on his responsibility, and it cannot be extended or renewed.
- (c) The director of the institution may grant an employee qualification, if he is convinced, on the basis of documents, that the training on the minimalization of suffering of laboratory animals, which the employee underwent abroad, is an equivalent of the training in the course said in section 9.

Effect and validity

11. (a) These Rules shall go into effect 30 days after their publication (hereafter: day of effect).
- (b) Section 10(b) is in effect during three years after the day of effect.

SCHEDULE

(Section 3(a))

Application for the Conduct of Experiments on Animals

(omitted)