

## **Spanish Society of Pharmacology statement on the use of research animals**

The **Spanish Society of Pharmacology** has joined the [agreement on Openness on Animal Research](#), promoted from the Federation of Scientific Societies in Spain (COSCE), with the collaboration of the European Association of Research Animals (EARA), and launched on 20 September 2016.

We are convinced that animal experimentation plays a fundamental role in the discover of the underlying biological mechanisms of disease, and in the developing of medical treatments. Without research in animals, we would not have most of the medicines, antibiotics, vaccines and surgical techniques that are applied nowadays in human and veterinary medicine.

An important part of the research undertaken at the **Spanish Society of Pharmacology** aims to contribute to the improvement of human health and wellbeing. These projects are carried out thanks to the use of animal models of disease, for example to study pathologies such as cancer, cardiovascular disorders (heart failure, ischemic cardiopathy, hypertension, etc.), those affecting the central nervous system (depression, schizophrenia, Parkinson, etc.), infectious diseases or those clearly inflammatory (inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, etc).

The welfare of animals used for research purposes is of paramount relevance for **Spanish Society of Pharmacology**, and also the strict compliance and respect to the current legislation on the protection of animals used in research and for other scientific purposes, including education. Our aim is to achieve the highest standards in animal welfare, not only from the point of view of our moral responsibility on them, but also because we are convinced we could not achieve research excellence without proper animal welfare. Our experiments with animals follow the legal standard and are assessed by an Ethics Committee on Animal Experimentation that promotes the use of alternative methods, the reduction in the number of animals used and the refinement in the experimental protocols applied. Not a single research project requiring the use of animals could start without the appropriate and required Ethics assessment and the eventual authorization from the competent authorities.

The **Spanish Society of Pharmacology** has also the commitment of providing clear information regarding when, why and how animals are used in research projects. In addition, it will provide information to the personnel involved in animal care and will develop initiatives to train researchers to have the adequate education and the required professional skills to work with animals. Finally, it will look after to provide all the resources to keep properly research animals in terms of facilities, husbandry, wellbeing and veterinary care.