

Transparency Agreement on Animal-Based Science in Canada

A national commitment to openness and transparency in animal-based scientific activities

Providing access to everyone around the overall process, procedures, requirements, scientific needs and limitations, replacement, reduction and refinement, and the national oversight of animal-based scientific activities in Canada is a necessary step towards increasing awareness and understanding around the role of animals in science. This agreement serves to promote greater openness and transparency to achieve this.

Animal-based science in Canada takes place in the context of



Improving the health of humans and animals



Protecting the environment



Educational purposes

In Canada, there is federal and provincial legislation overseeing the humane treatment of animals. The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) sets national standards for the ethical use and care of animals in science and supports organisations in their openness efforts.

The CCAC encourages the development of a formal transparency initiative amongst institutions and organisations. This transparency agreement proposes the following:

Commitment 1

We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in science.

- *Acknowledging our involvement in animal research*
- *Providing accurate descriptions of benefits, harms and limitations*

Commitment 2

We will enhance our communications with the public and the media about our use of animals in science.

- *Making relevant details about our animal research accessible to the public*

Commitment 3

We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to learn about animal use in science and the CCAC oversight and guidelines.

- *Participating in the public debate on animal-based science*
- *Proactively providing the public opportunities to find out more*

Commitment 4

We will report on progress annually and share our experiences amongst each other and with the public.

- *Sharing our experiences in the process of increasing openness and transparency*
- *Sharing our progress with the public*

All signatories agree to the commitments outlined above and will support their implementation to the extent reasonably practicable, given their resources and potential constraints.



Signing the Transparency Agreement on Animal-Based Science in Canada

The enclosed guidance document provides further information to support signatories in their implementation of the Transparency Agreement. If your institution is ready to sign the Canadian Transparency Agreement or if you want further information or explanation, contact Monique Havermans at EARA: mhavermans@eara.eu.