



INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT ON THE USE OF EXPERIMENTAL ANIMALS

The Biological Research Center Margarita Salas has joined the Transparency Agreement, promoted by the Spanish Confederation of Scientific Societies (COSCE) in collaboration to the European Association for Animal Research (EARA), released on Septiembre 20th, 2016.

At our institution we are aware of the fundamental role that animal experimentation plays in biomedical research, both basic and applied.

Knowledge of the biological mechanisms involved in diseases and in the development of new medical treatments is not possible without using experimental animals. Likewise, without the use of animal models we would not have most of medicines, antibiotics, vaccines and surgical techniques applied in both human and veterinary medicine.

A big part of all the scientific work carried out at the Biological Research Center Margarita Salas that contributes to the improvement of people and animales lives, is due to the use of experimental animal models.

Nearly twenty research groups belonging to different departments focus their research on discovering the biological mechanisms that control basic cellular processes and on the study of human diseases that affect different systems as well as various types of cancer and rare diseases.

Animal welfare of experimental animals is a fundamental issue for Biological Research Center Margarita Salas, and we apply a strict respect and compliance to current legislation on the protection of animals used in experimentation and other scientific purposes, including teaching.

Our goal is to achieve the highest standards of animal welfare, not only from the point of moral responsibility, but also because quality science cannot be achieved without animal wellbeing.

Animal research projects meet legal standards and is reviewed by an animal ethics committee, which promotes the application of the Three Rs Principle through replacing, where possible, animal testing with alternative methods, reducing the number of animales used through the application of statistical criterio and the refinement of experimental methods and procedures.

No research projects that requires the use of animals can be performed without the mandatory evaluation of animal experimentation ethics committee and the final authorization by the competent authority.

Biological Research Center Margarita Salas is also responsible for ensuring that all personnel, both technical and research, involved in the care, handling or experimental manipulation of animals have the necessary training and knowledge.