

Call for participants in the 8th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences¹ to endorse the recommendation of the journal Nature that research institutions should develop and publicize 3Rs plans

Montreal, August 2011

Whereas, the World Congresses on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences constitute the premiere forum for scientists, animal protectionists, and others from around the world to discuss both the current status of alternative methods in research, testing, and education and future prospects for advancing these methods.

Whereas, alternative methods, also known as the 3Rs, are methods that can replace, reduce, or refine the use of animals in laboratory procedures.

Whereas, *Nature* - a leading international science journal - recently underscored the importance of the 3Rs in an editorial on the animal research controversy.²

Whereas, the context of *Nature's* comments on the 3Rs was the importance of institutions that conduct animal research to communicate with the public about their activities.

Whereas, the editorial calls upon research institutions to develop and publicize, as a priority, "strategies to replace animals with more sophisticated research tools, refine research practice and reduce the overall number of animals used."

Whereas, the issuance of such strategies would be meaningful only if followed by periodic reports on progress in implementing the strategies.

Therefore, be it resolved that the undersigned participants in the 8th World Congress on Alternatives endorse *Nature's* call for research institutions - whether academic, corporate, or governmental - to develop and publicize strategies to replace, reduce, and refine the use of animals, and further, to periodically issue reports on their progress in implementing these strategies.

¹ August 21-25, 2011, Montreal, Canada (<http://www.wc8.ccac.ca/>)

² "Animal rights and wrongs," *Nature*, vol. 470, 24 February 2011, page 435 (<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v470/n7335/full/470435a.html>).