



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-00822**

BY: **MR. DAVIES (VANCOUVER KINGSWAY)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 26, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE KIRSTY DUNCAN**

Response by the Minister of Science

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Use of animals in research

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Since 1968, the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) has been the national organization responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the ethical use and care of animals in science. In Canada, research using animals is regulated by federal and provincial provisions.

Research using animals conducted in institutions that receive funds from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and other federal granting agencies must adhere to the standards established by CCAC. An institutional animal care committee reviews the appropriateness of the proposed animal model and the adequacy of animal use and care according to CCAC standards.

CCAC standards are recognized nationally and internationally as best practices in the ethical use and care of animals in science. Standards are developed and revised in response to current and emerging needs of the research community, advances in laboratory animal care, and the needs of the CCAC Assessment and Certification Program.

It is important to note that the CCAC's ethic of animal experimentation is based on the Three R's: replacement, reduction, and refinement. Researchers must consider whether animals are required or whether suitable replacements exist. When animals are used, the researcher must consider how best to reduce the number of animals used to a minimum and/or how to maximize the amount of information obtained per animal. Additionally, researchers must identify potential harms and ways to refine techniques in order to minimize these possible harms.