



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-02794**

BY: **Ms. MAY (SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 22, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **MR. JOHN OLIVER**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Use of animals in research

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) is the national organization responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the care and use of animals in science in Canada. Research conducted by the federal health portfolio or institutions that receive funding from the federal health portfolio must adhere to CCAC guidelines and standards.

The majority of research reviewed or conducted by the federal health portfolio's laboratories is performed without the use of animals. The decision to use animals in the context of a scientific investigation is made with the utmost seriousness, prudence and oversight.

Animals are only used where there are no alternatives to animal models. All study protocols, whether the study is conducted by the health portfolio or not, must demonstrate how the study conforms to the Three R principles of animal testing: replacement, reduction, and refinement. 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.

The health portfolio is committed to ensuring the responsible and ethical use of animals in research and development and the elimination of unnecessary animal testing wherever possible. Work is continuing with regulatory partners to validate and promote alternatives to animal testing, while also supporting the international development and use of alternatives to animal testing through participation on international scientific committees. Our Government recognizes and appreciates the concerns expressed on this issue and works diligently to fulfil its public health and health mandates while maintaining high ethical standards for the care and treatment of animals.