



Indian Laws Regarding Animal Experimentation

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SUMMARY

Animals are essential to human existence. Animals are employed in pharmaceutical research to identify various human and animal illness types as well as to predict and treat them. Animals are still employed to improve both human and animal health situations because there are no better options. The Breeding of and Experimentation on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998, as well as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA), 1960, set forth the legal framework for animal experimentation. "The Committee for the Purpose and Supervision of Experiments on Animals" (CPCSEA), a legal organization created in 1964 in accordance with PCA Act Chapter IV, Section 15(1), is responsible for carrying out the legislation. The committee's primary goal is to ensure that animals are utilized responsibly in research. Regretfully, despite all of these efforts, there is still a problem with animal behavior and inadequate facilities for animals. The rules, morality, and legislation pertaining to animal experimentation in India are covered in this article. It also covers the pertinent amendments made to the Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998, as well as the roles performed by the various committees in preventing the animals from experiencing extreme pain or suffering.

Keywords: PCA Act, CPCSEA, IAEC, Animal Experimentation, Animal Testing, Indian Laws

OVERVIEW

Throughout history, researchers have often utilized animals in medicinal studies. The first Indian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) was founded in Calcutta by Colesworthy Grant in 1861 during the British era, although it was short-lived there. Before the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) was established, a center for laboratory animal science was originally established in Mumbai in 1957 following independence, with financial assistance from UNESCO. The facility was called LAISC.

The center's mission was to supply higher-quality animals for scientific investigations.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA) was created later in 1960. Under the PCA Act, the Breeding of and Experimentation on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1988 establish the requirements for utilizing animals in research. The laws are carried out by the Committee for the Purpose and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA), which was established in 1964. Numerous organizations have developed strict policies, directives, and suggestions that must be adhered to when conducting animal experiments. India currently has a plethora of organizations, policies, and legislation that uphold the rights of animals and guarantee them proper care.

From a scientific perspective, animal experimentation makes sense. Animals are still utilized to study the biological systems of both humans and other animals because there are currently no other ways to replace the system.

The 1960 PCA (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

The PCA Act's Chapter IV, Sections 14 through 20, contains the legislation pertaining to animal experimentation. Additionally, the statute punishes people who inflict unjustified pain, suffering, or harm on animals.

The Committee for the Objective and Oversight Study of Animals

It is a legal entity that was founded by the Indian government in 1964 in accordance with PCA Act Chapter IV, Section 15(1). Its primary goals are to give the animals proper facilities and protection from needless suffering. It supports the Four R's: Reduction of the number of animals used for studies, Refinement of pain and suffering during experiments, Rehabilitation following animal experimentation in compliance with the act's rules, and



Replacement of animal testing with any other method. The Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules were established in order to carry out the objectives of the CPCSEA.

PURPOSE OF CPCSEA

The standards, norms, and regulations established by the CPCSEA must be followed by all institutions engaged in animal education and research.

CPCSEA's primary responsibilities are:

1. to list the establishments engaged in the breeding and experimenting on animals.
2. to choose and assign candidates to the IAEC of an accredited school.
3. to accept Animal House Facilities in compliance with CPCSEA's inspection reports.
4. should take institutional action in the event that any rule is broken.
5. to provide approval for doing animal experimentation.
6. to give permission for the importation of animals for research.

ETHICAL GUIDELINES THAT CPCSEA WILL ADHERE TO

Principle 1: Only the following justifications may be used in animal studies.

1. to advance our understanding of physiology
2. to gain knowledge that could be applied to enhance, preserve, or extend human life
3. to discover a treatment for an illness (which could affect humans, animals, or plants)

Principle 2: When doing experiments, it is best to employ animals that can tolerate severe discomfort. If a more effective method is available, animal testing should be avoided. However, if an alternative approach is still available and the animal is still employed for the experiment, there needs to be a good reason for doing so.

Principle 3: The least amount of suffering an animal can experience throughout an experiment should be the main focus. If the discomfort is expected to last for an extended period of time, the proper sedative or anesthetic should be administered. When it comes to the decision to suffer pain, animals and people must be treated equally.

Principle 4: After an animal is used for experimentation, the examiners are in charge of its care and rehabilitation; the expense of this care and rehabilitation is included in the costs of the research. Euthanasia of animals may be permitted if

1. The animal is unable of perceiving its surroundings in an accessible way due to physical or mental disabilities.
2. The animal endured excruciating pain throughout the trial, and it's possible that it will continue for a while.
3. in circumstances where keeping the animal used for experimentation alive would endanger the lives of humans or other animals.

Principle 5: The living environment should support the well-being of the species and be suitable for them. For biomedical objectives, the animals must be handled by a veterinarian or scientist with the necessary training.

The following is a discussion of the 1998 PRIME RULES FOR ANIMAL BREEDING AND EXPERIMENTS (CONTROL AND SUPERVISION) RULES.

According to Rule 2(e), an experiment is any scientific test conducted on animals with the goal of acquiring knowledge about biological, anatomical, ethological, physical, or chemical subjects. Animals can also be utilized for

1. manufacturing vaccines, chemicals, and allergens



2. standard diagnostic procedures
3. trial operation
4. creation of transgenic stocks
5. in order to preserve or extend human life
6. for combating illnesses that affect people, animals, or plants.

According to Rule 4, institutions are only allowed to conduct animal experiments after registering with the CPCSEA. The institutions must stop breeding animals for experimentation or conducting animal experiments if the CPCSEA rejects their registration.

According to Rule 9(cc), aftercare and rehabilitation expenses for animals used in experiments are to be covered by the examiners, and these expenses will be deducted from the overall cost of the research.

According to Rule 10,

- (i) A breeder is only permitted to transfer or obtain animals from a licensed breeder or facility through sales or other means.
- (ii) If the animal is not available through registered breeders, it may be obtained through other lawful means.
- (iii) Purchasing animals from other legitimate sources is only permitted with the proper authority's written consent. Any alternative approach that permits the use of animals for research purposes must be prioritized; but, if an animal is still needed for the experiment, there needs to be a compelling reason for doing so.

Rule 14 outlines the conditions under which CPCSEA may revoke an establishment's registration. The establishment's registration will be canceled if the Member Secretary's or the authorized officer's report demonstrates that the breeder or the establishment is not abiding by the rules and that the instructions provided to prevent such a violation have not been put into practice.

As long as the breeder or establishment is given the chance to be heard in the appropriate way. With the additional caveat that a minor infraction will not result in an order revocation of registration or closure of the animal home facility. A minor infraction is any conduct that does not seriously harm an animal's health or result in their death.

The IAEC is the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee.

IAEC is a body made up of individuals accepted and registered by the committee (CPCSEA) to oversee animal experiments conducted in an institution in compliance with the policies and procedures established by the committee for that specific purpose. Before any research project involving small animal studies begins, IAEC will review and authorize it; however, CPCSEA will handle cases involving large animal operations.

IAEC is expected to monitor the study for its whole duration and after it is finished. It must also get to the location of the experiments. The principles, norms, and legislation must be scrupulously adhered to by the IAE Committee.

Principal Purposes of IAEC

1. In order to comply with CPCSEA criteria, IAEC provides consistency and standardization in the examination of research proposals and safeguards animals from excruciating pain and suffering before, during, and after animal experiments.
2. In order to preserve the standards and welfare of animals involved in pre-medical research, IAEC assesses all study proposals that involve animal trials, up to the phylogenetic level of Coney and leverets exclusively.
3. IAEC ensures that the experiment is carried out by a medical professional with extensive training or under the supervision of a senior inquisitor. The person conducting the experiment must have a minimum of a Bachelor of Veterinary Science or Human Medicine or a postgraduate degree in biological sciences. scientific/pharmaceutical/animal laboratory sciences. The experimenter needs to have extensive training in using animals in experiments.
4. IAEC makes certain that the animal housing complies with the requirements outlined in the guidelines.
5. makes certain that, whenever possible, animal experimentation is avoided. Additionally, it supports the 3Rs Principles, i.e. Reduction, Refinement, and Replacement.



6. makes ensuring that experiments with large animals are avoided if the desired outcome can be obtained by using a smaller animal.

ENTITIES THAT HAVE UPGRADED STRICT GUIDELINES

In accordance with PCA Act Rule 17(d), which specifies that animal testing should be avoided wherever possible—for instance, in medical schools, hospitals, etc.—many organizations have developed strict criteria that are mandatory for all animal-using institutions.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) issued an order to all colleges and institutions that are registered under it, prohibiting the use of animals in anatomical, physiological, and zoological research, as well as animal autopsies and experiments in pharmacy and other life sciences at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Medical Council of India (MCI): According to MCI's gazette, the pharmaceutical department can maintain an animal house; a central animal facility is not necessary. Due to the unclear and conflicting MCI instructions regarding the UG teaching of pharmacology, all colleges established animal homes that were licensed by the CPCSEA. At least on inspection days, they make an effort to keep them engaged. It is vital to reevaluate and make any required revisions to the MCI standards.

Pharmacy Council of India: It has also mandated that the PCI-accredited institutions register with CPCSEA and closely adhere to CPCSEA's regulations regarding animal testing. The use of animal autopsies in graduation ceremonies is prohibited.

END NOTE

Relevant modifications to the Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998, as amended, were suggested by the Consultative Group. After CPCSEA received the report from the Consultative Group, the modifications were properly included, contested, and discussed. Below is a quick discussion of the modifications.

1. Amendments to Rule 2(e): The definition of "experiment" was expanded to include "remarkable profits for the well-being of the country" as an extra standard that supports the use of animals in experiments.
2. Rule 9(bb) has been added. According to this insertion, the priority should be given to the phylogenetic minimum number of animals that yields statistically significant findings. Animal experimentation should be avoided if there is a better option available; nonetheless, if an animal must be used for an experiment despite the availability of a better option, the choice must be well-supported.
3. Amendment to Rule 10(e): In the event that an approved breeder is unable to supply animals, institutions are permitted to purchase animals from any legal source as long as the necessary paperwork is submitted.
4. Rule 10(e) amendment: In the event that registered breeders or other legal sources in the nation do not have genetically determined animals available, this allows institutions to import such animals with the approval of the DGFT. Gene-defined rats and mice are not subject to this order of non-availability.
5. Amendment to Rule 12: Under the PCA Act of 1960 and the rules and regulations enacted therein, institutions are now permitted to undertake contract research.
6. Amendment to Rule 14: As per the Member Secretary's or authorized officials' report, this rule has been enacted to allow CPCSEA to take required action against an institution or breeder in the event that any rule or norm is broken. After hearing from the opposing party, CPCSEA may issue orders to close the Animal House Facility, suspend or revoke the institution's registration, or both in the event of a serious infraction.

FINAL VERDICT

India was the first nation to outlaw the importation of goods that had undergone animal testing as well as the use of animals in cosmetics research. Additionally, it outlawed the use of live animals in medical settings. It is regrettable to observe that despite the numerous laws protecting animal rights, officials have been abusing their power to circumvent the law in order to carry out unlawful experiments and cruel treatment of animals. It's time for the market and society to adopt many significant, legally obligatory measures. Additionally, better facilities must be built in order to supply higher-quality animals for research. The medical sector will continue to rely on animals in the future due to the growing needs of health research. Not even 20% of the requirements can be met by Indian establishments. Everyone must take responsibility for animals, develop an increasing number of



acceptable phrases, and modify institutional rules in order to strengthen the needs for the current 4Rs: replacement, reduction, refinement, and rehabilitation.

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