National Conference on Laboratory Animal Welfare

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National Conference on laboratory Animal welfare policies & best practices was organized by Committee for Control & Supervision of Experiments on animals (CCSEA) under Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD).

- **Venue -** New Delhi.
- **Nodal Agency** – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- **CCSEA –** Statutory Body Established under Section 15 (1) of the Prevention of cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act.1960
- **Goal –** To ensure that animals are not subject to suffering or pain before, during, or after experiments.

Functions:

- **Compulsory Registration -** Of establishment of Breeding or using various animals for breeding purpose.
- **Institutional Animal Ethics Committees (IAEC)** – Monitors every research facility.
- **Approves Directly** – Research protocols involving large animals (e.g primates, bovines, Canines), while IAECs Approve experiments on small animals (e.g Rodents)
- **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** - To be stablished for the care and management of laboratory animal facilities.
- **3Rs Principle –** Conference emphasized the global framework for animal research:
  - **Replacement -** Utilizing non-animal models (e.g., **in-vitro** cell cultures, computer simulations) where possible.
  - **Reduction -** Methods that minimize the number of animals used per study while maintaining statistical significance.
  - **Refinement -** Improving procedures and husbandry to enhance animal welfare and minimize distress.

Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC)

- Every registered establishment must to have IAEC.
- **Composition -** Includes scientists, a veterinarian, and a CCSEA Nominee (external member) to ensure impartial oversight.
- **Role -** Primary body responsible for local ethical review and ensuring Self-Awareness & Compliance.
- **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) -** Also a statutory body under the PCA Act, 1960. It serves as an advisory body on animal welfare laws.
- **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) -** Mentioned in the conference as a priority for **vaccine development**. India aims to control FMD to boost the dairy sector's export potential.

- **DAHD-** Responsible for matters related to livestock production, preservation, and protection from disease.

PIB| IAS Parliament

