THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Committee on the Use of Live Animals in Teaching and Research

To: Teachers in charge of CULATR-approved teaching protocols
   Dr BKC Chow, Department of Zoology
   Dr JR Day, Faculty of Education
   Dr YB Feng, School of Chinese Medicine
   Dr BL Lim, Department of Zoology
   Dr WQ Luo, HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education
   Professor RYK Man, Department of Pharmacology
   Dr AMS Poon, Department of Physiology
   Professor F Tang, Department of Physiology
   Professor WSB Yeung, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
   Dr JF Zhou, School of Chinese Medicine

Date: March 27, 2007

3Rs principles for the use of live animals for teaching purpose

At the meeting of the Committee on the Use of Live Animals in Teaching and Research (CULATR) held on January 26, 2007, members received for information a list of teaching protocols approved by the CULATR and the number of animals supplied by the Laboratory Animal Unit for teaching experiments. In considering such information, members had raised the opinion that the 3Rs principles, i.e. ‘Replacement’, ‘Refinement’ and ‘Reduction’, had not been closely observed in some cases.

In this connection, I write, on behalf of the CULATR, to draw to your attention the 3Rs principles, which is briefly summarized below (more details can be found at http://www.frame.org.uk/3rs/3rsintro.htm):

- Replacement: avoid the use of living animals
- Refinement: minimize suffering and distress
- Reduction: minimize number of animals used

Teachers in charge of teaching protocols are reminded to adhere to the 3Rs principles as far as possible, and in particular the principle of ‘Replacement’.

For professional advice on the use of live animals for experiments, please contact Dr KS Lo, Head of Laboratory Animal Unit, at 2816 8515 or email: lauhku@hkucc.hku.hk.

Thank you for your attention.

Professor YS Chan
Chairman
Committee on the Use of Live Animals in Teaching and Research
cc. Dean, Faculty of Education
Director, School of Chinese Medicine
Director, School of Professional and Continuing Education
Head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Head, Department of Pharmacology
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Head, Department of Zoology
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