



VICH/07/038
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Statement of Principle for VICH – Alternatives to Animal Testing

At its 19th meeting on 23-24 January 2007 in Washington D.C., USA, the VICH Steering Committee reiterated its ambition to minimise animal testing and specifically expressed its support for the 3Rs principle – replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research.

VICH has always striven to eliminate repetitious and unnecessary testing through harmonisation of regulatory requirements for the registration of veterinary products, a goal that undoubtedly leads to a reduction in the number of animals used for product development and registration.

While the validation of alternative testing protocols¹ falls outside the remit of VICH, the Steering Committee recognises that the international status and influence of VICH provide a unique opportunity to encourage the use of validated alternative methods. To this end, Expert Working Groups developing guidelines involving animal experimentation have a specific responsibility to consider animal welfare, and particularly the possibilities for replacement, refinement and reduction of animal testing

¹ Validation of alternative testing protocols is the responsibility of regional bodies; ECVAM in Europe, ICCVAM in the USA and JaCVAM in Japan.