USING ANIMALS IN EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES: STUDENTS OPINION

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SUMMARY

What is your opinion about using animals in educational purposes? The third year students from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca were asked this question; at the end of the first semester of the academic year 2006/2007. From the 97 interrogated students; 90 answered this question; respectively 92.78 %. The students answers were varied. 11 from them (12.22 %) declared themselves completely against using animals in educational purposes. It has to be mentioned that this question was not especially concerning a particular animal type (animals for experiments; mammals etc.). 12 students (13.33 %) were totally for it. The main part of the students (74.44 %) said they were in favour of it; if animals suffering was decreased as much as possible; respectively some animals were replaced by alternative methods (simulators; PC softwares) or by invertebrate animals. Here are some of the students answers:

„It is necessary to use animals in this purpose; but it is also mandatory to respect animals needs. At the same time I don’t agree to use dogs; cats or big animals. I agree to rats and mices use.”

„I agree under circumstances that a small number of animals are used; invertebrates prefferably; and that they are correctly treated during expermentation.”

„In the most cases animals used in educational purposes are subjected to inhumane experiments; that we could also understand very well by watching TV (experiments recorded on video tapes) or by using different PC softwares.”

„I agree to use animals in educational purposes as long as they are not subjected to very intensive and useless suffering. Some of the practical demonstrations can’t be replaced by PC simulations or other alternative methods.”

„I agree to use animals in educational purposes if their suffering is minimised and if their complete welfare is provided between utilisation periods.”

„They should be replaced by PC simulations. It is something else if at the clinics there are cases treated in front of students; in educational purposes.”

In the majority of students answers; the principles of „3R” (reduction; replacement; refinement) were present; one way or another (Decun M.; 2004).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Decun M.; 2004; Etologia; bunăstarea şi protecţia animalelor; Ed. Mirton; Timișoara.