

12 March 1997

## **ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION**

BVA believes that the use of animals in experiments is a justifiable use by man, but that this use has to be controlled, and that the health and welfare of the animals involved must be a prime consideration at all times.

BVA recognises that experiments on animals have brought – and will continue to bring – significant benefits for man and animals not only by improving health and welfare but also through the advancement of scientific knowledge. The BVA believes that the veterinary profession has a duty to care for experimental animals and must continue to be actively involved in safeguarding their health and welfare.

BVA supports the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, which replaced the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876 with a more rigorous system of controls on scientific work on living animals. BVA believes that the 1986 Act has done much to improve the health and welfare of animals involved in experimentation.

BVA continues to support “the three Rs”: ***Refinement of scientific techniques***

***Reduction in the number of animals used***

***Replacement of animal experimentation with alternative methods***

In addition, BVA supports a further 3 Rs: ***Respect for animals***

***Recognition of suffering***

***Relief of pain***

For further advice please contact BVA