

Advancing Science and Adhering to Ethics ——Mission and Practice of CALAS

On the occasion of “Asia Laboratory Animal Day”, we would like to express our highest respect to laboratory animals, the “silent contributors”, for their tremendous contributions to human health and scientific progress. The Chinese Association for Laboratory Animal Sciences (CALAS) has always been committed to promoting the development of laboratory animal science, enhancing animal ethical welfare, popularizing scientific knowledge, and shouldering the responsibility of continuously strengthening public education and actively advancing the progress of laboratory animal science and technology.

As one of the founding and member countries of the Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science Associations (AFLAS), CALAS has long been devoted to the development of laboratory animal science and technology and the building

of multidimensional academic exchange platforms. Focusing on themes like “Laboratory Animal Science and Technology and Human Health”, we have successfully hosted widely influential international summits, such as the 3rd and 10th AFLAS Congresses. These events have established a stage for academic dialogues across countries and disciplines, injecting new momentum into the cooperation and sharing in the Asian region and the world at large.

CALAS attaches great importance to the welfare and ethics of laboratory animals and has established a series of top-level designs and management standards, achieving both standardized and systematic ethical framework. First, the standard system has been increasingly refined. CALAS has issued a total of 167 group standards and created a comprehensive system of standards in laboratory animals, and in the management, technical procedures, and personnel training of animal experiments. Second, ethical supervision has been thoroughly strengthened.

Initially proposed by CALAS, the “Competence Evaluation System of Laboratory Animal Institutions” has led the industry to a more standardized direction. With “Regulate” at its core, CALAS has formed a closed-loop, sustainably perfected management system that prioritizes standards, leads with ethics, and ensures regulatory oversight in order to implement the “3Rs” principle centered on Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement.

It is essential to upgrade the technician’s level of technique and ethics if we want to implement and fulfill the welfare and ethics requirements. Therefore, CALAS has launched the “Laboratory Animal Veterinarians Training and Certification” and constituted a standardized, non-degree vocational education and certification system in the field of laboratory animal medicine in China. Furthermore, it has introduced the “Laboratory Animal Technician Competency Evaluation” system, forming a whole certification chain, which

completely improves the professional skills and ethical awareness of practitioners.



“The light of life in the lab” activity during the 2025 National Science Popularization Week

CALAS has also established a science popularization system towards the general public through science education campaigns. It not only organizes experts to engage with schools and communities, but also promotes the deep integration of life sciences and ethics education through lectures and interactive experiences,

enhancing public awareness—especially among the younger generation—of laboratory animal science and technology.



Professor Qin Chuan, President of AFLAS and Vice Chairman of CALAS, once proposed that standardized management is an important approach to ensuring animal welfare and ethics. It requires us to learn international experiences in accordance with Chinese cultures, and seek development grounded in our own cultural characteristics. We have always upheld an open and inclusive cultural foundation, and strived to

improve the resource development and sharing of animal models, reach an internationally recognized consensus in terms of laboratory animal technical and welfare standards featuring mutual learning and inclusiveness so as to foster a shared development.

Chinese Association for Laboratory Animal
Sciences

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