



## Letter to Editor

### Animal rights consideration is a necessity in conducting an experiment

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Over the past 200 years, and particularly since World War II, public concern over the animal rights has steadily grown and veterinarians are increasingly expected to consider animal welfare in a broader sense than health alone.<sup>1</sup> Certainly, during the past 40 years, Western countries has revealed a marked public concern for the ethical treatment of animals, though studies from some other countries are far less evident.<sup>2</sup>

Although some of Iranian investigators' manuscripts have been criticized for poor animal treatment and their methods raise ethical questions, recent research has shown that the Iranian students have high appreciation for ethical animal treatment and welfare and the majority of students expressed empathy toward animals and opposed animal cruelty.<sup>3</sup>

Iran, a country with a high scientific articles production, is expected to match animal welfare standards to its Western counterparts.<sup>4-5</sup> It should be mentioned that in experiments with animal involved, investigators are expected to minimize possible exploitation of animals by using humane experimental methods.

Whilst all results of an investigation can be reliable, inhumanely treatment of experimental animals may cause whole investigation unacceptable.

An important step in improving animal welfare is to legislate a modern animal welfare law and making a regularly collaboration between governmental and/or nongovernmental national organizations and international animal welfare and conservation organizations.<sup>6</sup>

However many Islamic laws have existed for more than 1400 years, legislation, in our country concerning animal treatment and welfare, is currently limited and discussing.

Therefore in our country, we would like to see legislation to minimize animal suffering in sport,

medical researches, circuses and the other use of animals.

It is strongly suggested that our scientific journals refuse to accept the essays, in which the animal rights are considered appropriately.

#### References

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