

Alternatives to animal experimentation v.s. Animal right terrorism

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The systematic modern animal experimentation was established by Bernard Claude who wrote "Experiment medicine exordium" in 1865. At this point, the people already asked to reduce the pain and distress of experimental animals. For this opinion, William Russell and Rex Burch proposed the principles of alternatives to animal experimentation "3Rs" as scientists in 1959. Since then, animal welfare advocates are promoting the 3Rs concept in biomedical research communities. However the cruel animal experimentations were still continued and the radical extremists are opposing to the animal experimentation and the invasion, arson, theft and injury, even bombing the institutions resulting the murdering were reported. SHAC, one of extremist group which was thought to be animal welfare activities was recognized as a terrorist group after 9.11 tragedy in USA and the administrative managed these activities very strictly. In 2001, British animal extremists invaded into Japanese universities and they stole laboratory resources and one of them was arrested and sentenced for three years and the Japanese extremists were arrested and one of them were sentences for a year due to their assistance of the incident. In 2006, SHAC USA members were prosecuted and were sentenced for up to 6 years due to their terrorism activities including arson.

We need to consider the background of these activities which are financially supported by animal welfare advocates. The way of responding to the animal welfare advocates as scientists carrying animal experimentation is the promotion of alternatives to animal experimentation. In Japan, the animal welfare law was revised in 2005. It says the importance of 3Rs for scientific activities with animals. The promotion of 3Rs should be enhanced in the pharmaceutical community.