

CURRENT REGULATIONS AND EMERGING

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Brazilian Political Map



LET US START WITH BRAZIL

- a continental country :

economic,

religious,

cultural

social differences



lead to different ways of thinking.



reflects in the development of science too.

Centres of excellence in the South-Eastern part of the country

- ICLAS award- Dr. Krieger-2003
- Largest cities
- Other parts of the country are quite young
- Our capital, Brasilia, is only 50 years old
- as a consequence, the Universities in those regions are also very young, starting to build their laboratories, animal houses, etc.

Trying to catch up

- Scientists organizing their reference centres, lines of research, specializing their scientists
- INPA, the Research Institute of the Amazon, which develops projects mainly in nutrition using the tremendous amount of fruits the region has, and has a modern SPF laboratory animal house.

1985-a veterinarian called Dr. Sogorb

- gathered people working with laboratory animals and created an Association called **COBEA** (National College on Animal Experiments).
- This Council issued the **COBEA** Ethical Principles, based on the CIOMS principles,
- a very active association, which started to organize lectures, seminars and a Congress,
- in 1986, with the participation of ICLAS.

Not only veterinarians were part of COBEA

- other professionals like biologists and physicians.
- So, the name of this association was changed to **SBCAL** (Brazilian Association of Laboratory Animal Science-2009).
- Association has been paramount to the introduction of regulations in Brazil and also has been a reference to other Latin American countries

No regulations

- Task force to implement Ethical Committees
- Reference: Canadian Council
- No efforts were spared to achieve this goal:
Seminars, lectures, congresses
- And the word was spread

As on of the consequences

- CNPQ-no grant was to be given if the project had not passed by an Ethical review process
- No acceptance by the main scientific publications

Very important first step towards a better science and better animal care in Brazil

- Completely changed the approach scientists had towards laboratory animals
- Although some scientists followed international regulations
- But... an “official” law was needed

In 1995 a physician called Dr. Sergio Arouca, also a Federal Congressman

- coordinated a group of scientists that issued the **first draft of a Law Project** concerning the scientific use of animals.
- Although one might be tempted to shake his head in disbelief, the Law was only **approved 13 years later**, with lots of amendments, and without the supervision of Dr. Arouca, who passed away in 2003.
- The Law, now called Arouca Law, is Law n°11.794 dated from October, 8th, 2008

Law n°11.794-October 8th, 2008

lei Arouca

- Regulates the use of animals(vertebrates) in research, teaching and testing
- Creates the CONCEA- National Council on Animal Experiments
- Creates the CEUAS- Ethical Committees
- Institutions must be registered in CONCEA
- Must have an Ethical Committee

Comparing with the EU Directive and USA laws

- Emphasis on the 3 R's
- Use of alternatives
- Avoidance and alleviation of pain, distress
- It can even be ascertained that the Law puts more emphasis in Ethical Committees than in these countries

Law regulated by Presidential Decree n°6899/2009

- Gives the framework of the composition of CONCEA, its rules and functions
- Creates the CIUCA- Registration body
- Currently elaborating guidelines based on :
 - the EU Directive
 - The Guide -8th ed.

Arouca Law recently approved - in its formative years

Effects whether positive or negative can be expected given the passage of time

Trying to get the best of all worlds,

Have we succeeded?

What have we learnt?

Lucky: No need to create the wheel

Aware on the changes regarding international harmonization

- Evaluate what can be applied to our countries
and
- What is unrealistic to us
- Same rules must equally be obeyed by any Brazilian Institution regardless of their region and socio economic status



- Harmonizing the standards of the scientific works in a higher level

Some strong points can already be observed

1. **Ethical Committees**- led to a culture of care-changing the minds .
2. Laboratory **Animal Houses** : better animals, better animal houses, better trained personnel
3. Role of **veterinarians**
4. Search for **alternatives**
5. **Regulatory** Agencies
6. **Interdisciplinary** meetings- law, etc.

It can be attested that the Law made a clean sweep of the Brazilian Laboratory Animal Science setting us the same tune played by our partners in other countries

Can we say there are negative points? Or problems to be solved?

- **Distance**-affects not only transport of laboratory animals, so sometimes is difficult to follow the Law.
- We are already facing the problem **of Inspection**
- As always in Brazil, **bureaucracy** may be mentioned....and despite some of the aforementioned steps taken to curb it, any new Law in Brazil always brings with itself an unbelievable amount of red tape.

But, at the end of the day we feel it is worth filling countless new papers and forms if they lead to a better science and better animal welfare in our country.

South and Central America



Other Latin American Countries

Brazilian Law **triggered** the start of several discussions in Latin America, serving as a **starting point** for countries that had, or still have no such regulations

Countries that have Law on the scientific use of animals

- Brazil
- Mexico
- Uruguay

Countries that have an Animal Welfare Law

- Argentina
- Costa Rica
- Chile
- Colombia

There is still a long way to go

- But the seed was planted
- and there is a consensus of scientists and authorities on the benefits the Law brought to the development of laboratory animal science in Brazil, I may say to science as a whole.
- This will push us to try to be updated, and meetings, like this one, will help us to follow the road taken by the international scientific community.