



Institute of Animal Technology (IAT) Statement 12th April 2021

Undercover footage at the Laboratory of Vivotecnia by Cruelty Free International

The IAT strongly condemns and is disgusted by the conduct of the employees as shown in the video footage circulated by Cruelty Free International. How conduct like this appears to be occurring in this research facility is both distressing and shocking.

The Institute of Animal Technology abhors and condemns what appears to be a breakdown in the Culture of Care in this laboratory, with some staff showing a complete lack of compassion, let alone any appropriate training in, or knowledge of, good practice. The clear examples of obvious distress shown by the animals, illegal activity, fearful postures and attempts to escape their handlers should not be seen in any facility. The individuals shown in the video **do not** represent what the IAT considers a professional Animal Technologist to be: a person who loves and respects animals, who is trained and educated in animal technology practices and who always strives to provide the best environment and optimum care possible for the animals in their facility.

In view of the physiological and psychological distress exhibited by all the animals shown in the footage, it is right to question the scientific validity of any results obtained under these conditions.

We are delighted that the Spanish authorities have acted swiftly and ordered the Establishment to suspend all activities (except for the husbandry and care of the animals present) while under investigation, and would assume an immediate and thorough investigation will be undertaken.

The article suggests that this footage was captured over a 2-year period. Part of the investigations made should be into how and why this was not reported sooner. In every facility where a Culture of Care and education are a priority there should be an easy and confidential reporting mechanism / Whistle blowing policy.

IAT Ethical Statement

In the conduct of their Professional duties Animal Technologists have a moral and legal obligation, at all times, to promote and safeguard the welfare of animals in their care, recognising that good laboratory animal welfare is an essential component of good laboratory animal technology and science. The Institute recognises and supports the application of the principles of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) in all areas of animal research.