

**Development of guidelines for the use of laboratory animals in research
in The Philippines**



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BRIDGING THE RESEARCH POLICY DIVIDE

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For what

- Highlight the need for welfare of laboratory animals used in biomedical research in The Philippines.
- To ethical treatment of laboratory animals.
- To incorporate scientific ethos in research.

For whom

- Research Institutions (Biomedical institutions Medical hospitals)
- Veterinarians
- Colleges/Universities/High School/Elementary students
- Animal caretakers /Handlers/Producers/Pet shops
- Public

Systemic View

- Inter-agency National Committee on Animal Welfare established in 1997 as a venue for discussion and development of policies for lab. animals.
- Committee constituted technical advisory group for the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry ,other GOs and NGOs.
- Venue for coordination, information exchange and crafting of national guidelines on laboratory animals.
- Combining efforts and resources between agriculture and other agencies.

Senate and Congress, Committee on Agriculture



Secretary of Agriculture

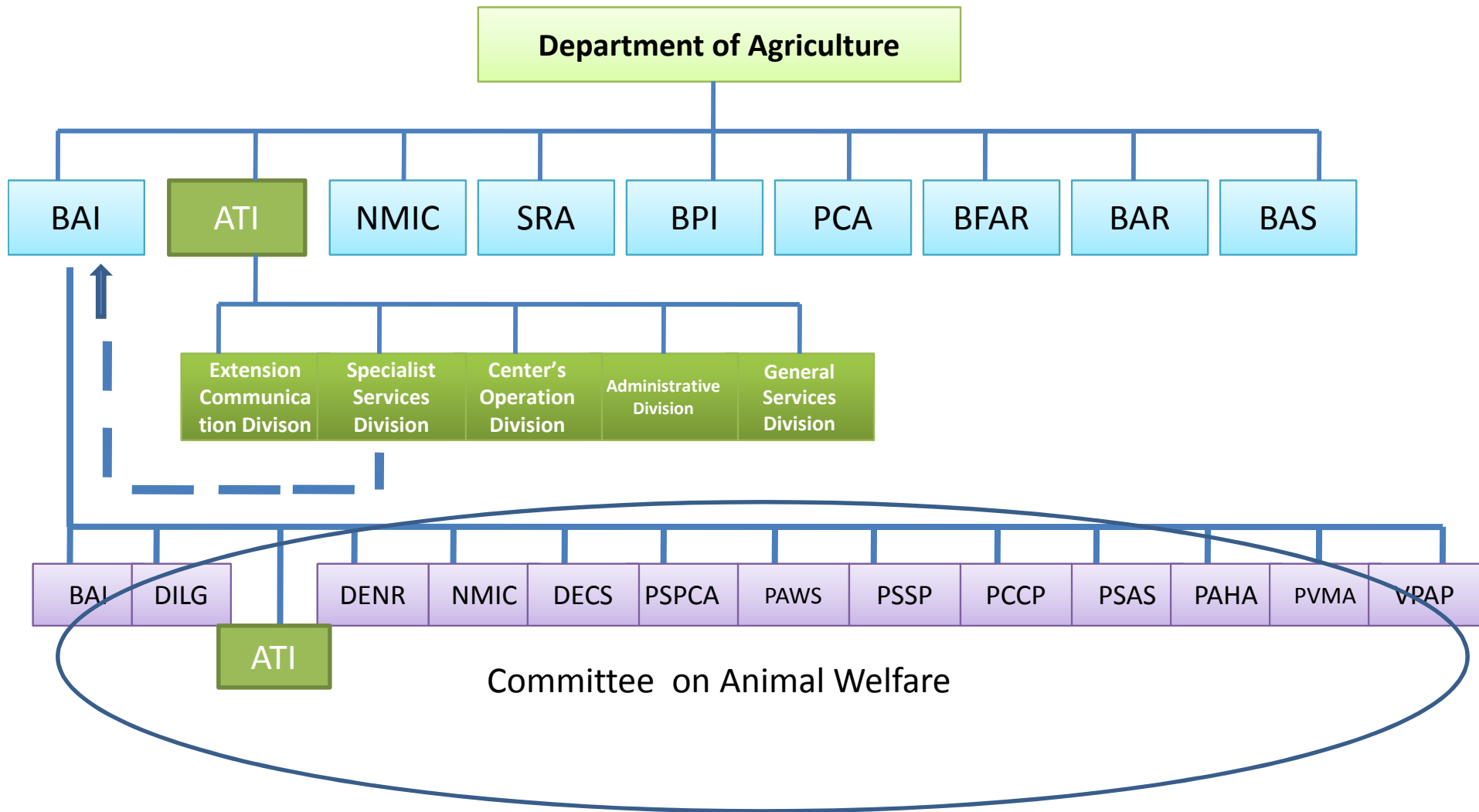


Bureau of Animal Industry Director
(Animal Welfare Division)



Committee on Animal Welfare
BAI, ATI, DILG,
DENR, NMIC, PVMA, VPAP, PAHC, PAWS, PSPCA,
DECS, PAHA, PVMA, PCCP, PSAS

Technical Advisory Council



Organizational Structure of the Department of Agriculture

Punctuated equilibrium and stages models

Scoping

- Bureau of Animal Industry (limited financial and human resources) aimed to protect their interest.
- Implementers of 14 different agencies
- Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), Philippine Association for Lab. Animal Science (PALAS).
- National policies and guidelines consistently followed global guidelines, recommendations and expert committee report of World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH or OIE).

Boundary setting

Focused on ethical treatment of laboratory animals used in research (mice , rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, fowl ,frogs and monkeys)

Large animals like horse, pig, cattle, buffalo, wildlife species were not included.

Problem framing

Department of Agriculture (DA) of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) was bombarded with letters, communications, calls by animal welfare group, animal rights and leftists, researchers/students



Taking values into account

- Ethical use of laboratory animals
- Better research considering 3 Rs
 - Refinement, Replacement, Reduction
- Yet recognise that certain groups want total ban on laboratory animals.

Harnessing differences

- Coordination and information
- Consensus meetings with DA thru the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the committee on animal welfare
- Cooperation among medical, veterinary science and community.

Managing Differences

- Continuity of personnel for 3 to 5 months

By whom, when and how

By whom

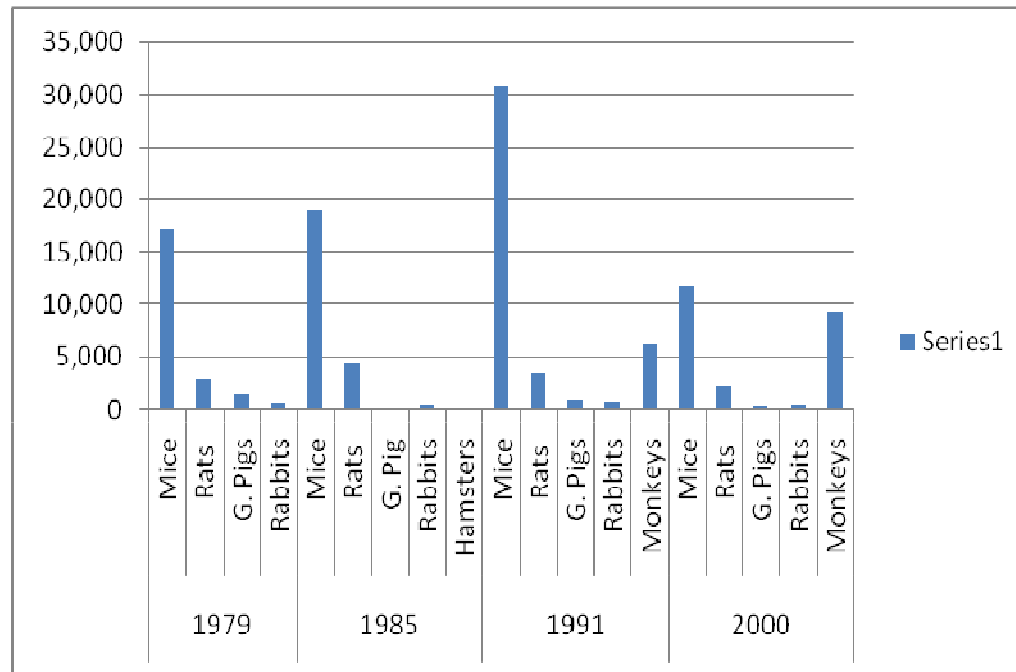
Committee on Animal Welfare (14 members)

When

Committee Began in 1997 and continues

How

Summarised survey results done in 1979, 1985 and 1991



Population size of different laboratory animals

Prepared a status report on animal welfare and submitted to the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Animal Industry Director. The report highlighted use, promotion, welfare of the laboratory animals.

Context

- Formation of the Philippine Association for Laboratory Animal Science (PALAS) in 1988.
- Conducts annual scientific convention which recognise animal welfare issues and laboratory animal training
- Recognised lab animals issue as new field of science.
- The Philippines had no regulations, public policies or set of principles relating to laboratory animal research and experimentation until 1997.

Legitimacy

PALAS had the professional credential

The committee members on animal welfare represented related organisations

Organisation barriers and facilitating

No barriers, the need to come out with guideline was immediate

Encourage to be a part of the committee

Make attempt to build cooperation with the committee members

Outcomes

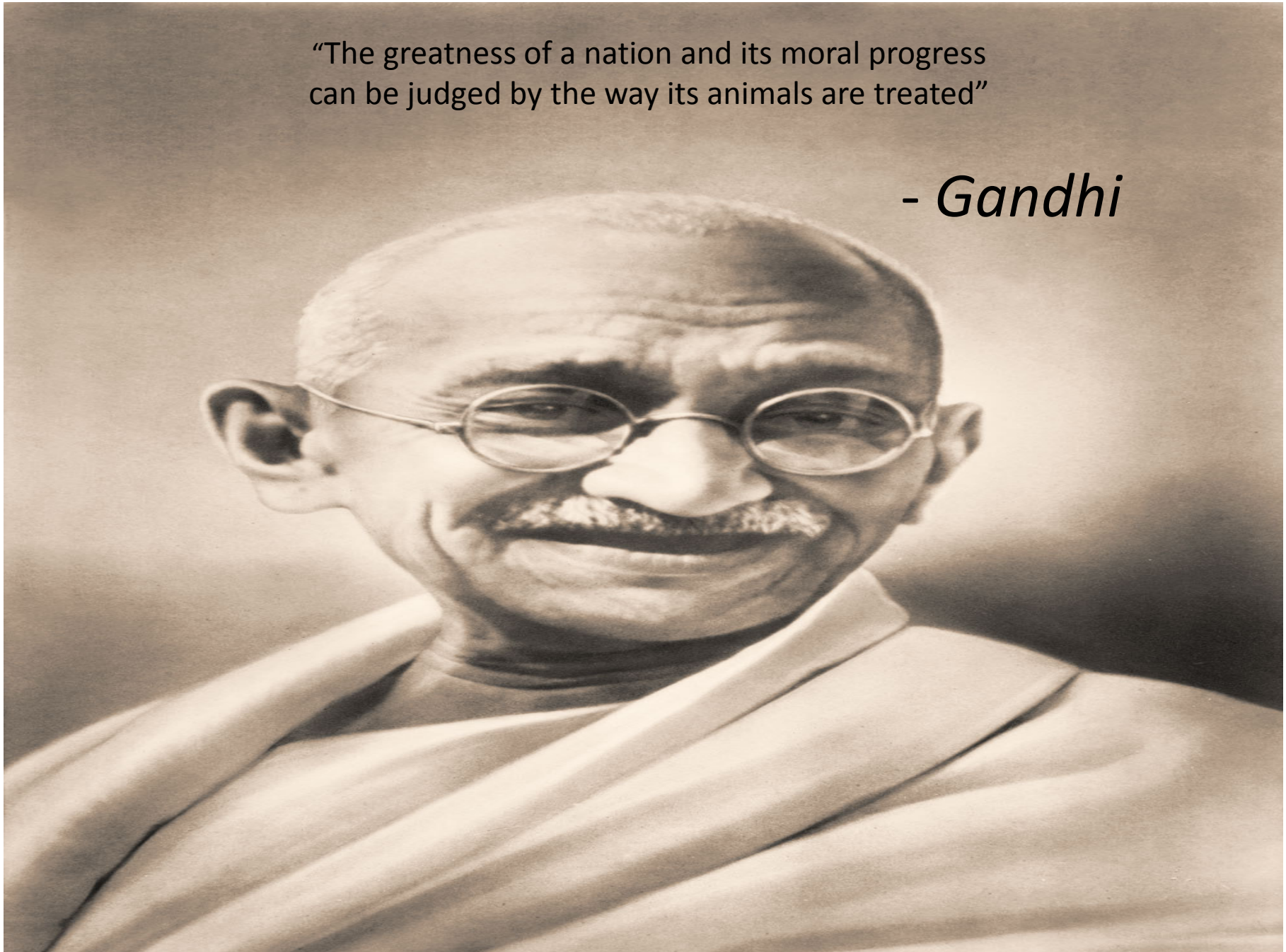
- Act 8485 on Animal Welfare Act passed in February 11, 1998
- Research proposal on laboratory animal should receive permission from Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)
- After approval BAI send the proposal to Institutional Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of respective laboratory animal facility where the research would be conducted.
- Then IACUC will approve proposal for conduct of the research.
- Organisational vet then looks after welfare issues (handling, restraints, use, anesthesia and euthanasia etc.)
- Monthly meeting conducted to further refine guideline on animal welfare and scientific procedures.
- CAW provides technical advise to BAI director on animal issues.

Provided a better opportunity to understand the policy and problem streams.

Understood the importance of science, added to value existing knowledge and advocated that policy making and legislation consider research findings.

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress
can be judged by the way its animals are treated”

- *Gandhi*





THANK YOU!!!!