



## **BENEFITS OF INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Research has shown that transparency, open dialogue, and clear communication regarding the ethical use of animals in science are vital to achieving better public understanding, increased public trust, and improved animal welfare. According to a number of studies, openness demonstrates an appreciation and commitment to the notion that animals used in scientific activities are owed concern about their welfare, and that animal welfare is central to institutional animal care and use programs.

The sharing of information with other institutions regarding scientific activities also enables more informed choices and strategies, promotes enhanced accountability, and encourages a culture of learning, better communication, innovation, and better animal welfare. By openly exchanging information and experiences, institutions can foster a more collaborative and flexible environment.

### **BENEFITS**

#### **Prioritization of Animal Welfare**

Openness provides institutions with an opportunity to communicate how their animal care and use programs give top priority to the wellbeing of animals.

#### **Responsibility**

Transparency results in enhanced accountability to stakeholders and the public. By sharing information, institutions ensure they are strongly committed to their responsibility for the wellbeing of animals.

#### **Improved Decision-Making**

The sharing of additional information with other institutions will enable more informed choices and strategies.

#### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Publishing information about the experience of animals used in science can stimulate public discussion, raise awareness, and improve collaboration. Giving Canadians the opportunity to voice their opinions and inviting their feedback can foster trust and a sense of shared ownership and can also lead to improving practices in animal welfare.

## **Improved Mental Health**

Encouraging open dialogue can create an internal culture of trust and respect and allow for more positive recognition. Transparency can also foster the organizational support needed to improve emotional resilience and create coping mechanisms for dealing with work-related stress and alleviating compassion fatigue.

## **Public Information Opportunities**

Openness on animal-based research, teaching, and testing serves as an educational tool, allowing people to understand how animals are used and how their welfare is always a priority in scientific endeavours. This then strengthens the social acceptance under which institutions operate.

## **Innovation and Learning**

Transparency often encourages a culture of learning and innovation. By openly sharing experiences and lessons learned, institutions can foster a more collaborative and adaptive environment.

## **Improved Public Image and Reputation**

When information is readily available, it becomes easier to highlight an organization's performance, ethical conduct, and adherence to standards. Institutions that prioritize transparency often enjoy a positive public image as these practices demonstrate their commitment to honesty, openness, and responsible governance. This can enhance their brand value, attract donors and partnerships, and differentiate them from competitors.