



## Media Release

For immediate release  
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### **Campaigners urge the new European Parliament to put animal protection on the agenda and to promote humane modern science**

The **European Coalition to End Animal Experiments (ECEAE)**, urged members to prioritise the replacement of animal experiments and to promote a modern humane science policy following today's announcements of the newly elected European Parliament.

The ECEAE, a coalition of 17 animal protection organizations from across Europe – the continent's leading alliance campaigning on behalf of animals used in experiments – specifically asked that Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) take on board the concerns of EU citizens and work towards the ultimate goal of ending animal experiments during its next 5-year term.

It is estimated that 12.1 million animals<sup>1</sup>, including mice, rabbits, non-human primates, dogs, cats and fish, are annually used in laboratories throughout the EU for a variety of purposes, a majority of which are not directly linked to medical progress.

The welfare of animals is a major point of concern amongst European citizens. A majority of respondents to a recent opinion poll opposed all experiments causing severe pain or suffering to any animal, even for medical research<sup>2</sup>.

EU citizens will be expecting MEPs to make the right decisions and to support a targeted strategy to phase out animal experiments, to improve current animal welfare standards, to push for change whenever appropriate and to ensure much better transparency.

**Michelle Thew, Chief Executive of the ECEAE** said: "With a newly elected Parliament, the current revision of Directive 86/609/EEC presents a unique opportunity to bring in bold and progressive new legislation which focuses strategically on ending the use and suffering of millions of animals in experiments every year. The ECEAE calls on MEPs to listen to their citizens and to support measures which will help advance modern, humane science."

## ENDS

For further information contact the ECEAE Media Office + 44 (0)7850 510 955 or visit our Web site: [www.eceae.org](http://www.eceae.org)

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## Notes:

### About the ECEAE

The European Coalition to End Animal Experiments (ECEAE) is Europe's leading alliance peacefully campaigning on behalf of animals used in experiments. Formed in 1990 by animal organisations across Europe to successfully campaign to ban cosmetics testing on animals, the Coalition now leads campaigning on all animal experimentation issues in Europe.

The ECEAE draws together organisations with a range of legislative, scientific and political expertise to effect change for animals used in experiments.

<sup>1</sup> Total number of animals used in 2005 in the 25 Member States with data from France of 2004, Fifth Statistical Report of the European Commission on the Statistics on the Number of Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific purposes (2007)

<sup>2</sup> An opinion poll carried out in February and March 2009 in six EU Member States (UK, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the Czech Republic) by leading polling company YouGov found overwhelming support to end the use of primates, cats and dogs in experiments causing suffering, and animal experiments to be allowed – if at all – only for serious human illnesses, please follow this link: [http://www.eceae.org/a1\\_poll.php](http://www.eceae.org/a1_poll.php)

Total sample size was 7139 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 24th February - 4th March 2009. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of the population sizes of the countries surveyed.