Animal welfare

Research that is done using laboratory animals should comply with the ethics considered in using of these animals in the scientific research. Authors are signing this letter to declare their responsibility for the application of these ethics, as reported in the guidelines written by the National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology (NENT), Norway:

**Guidelines**

1. Respect animals’ dignity.
2. Responsibility for considering options (*Replace*).
3. The principle of proportionality: responsibility for considering and balancing suffering and benefit.
4. Responsibility for considering reducing the used number of animals (*Reduce*).
5. Responsible for minimizing the risk of suffering and improving animal welfare (*Refine*).
6. Responsibility for maintaining biological diversity.
7. Responsibility when intervening in a habitat.
8. Responsibility for openness and sharing of data and material.
9. Requirement of expertise on animals.
10. Requirement of due care.

*I am the undersigned author/s confirm that the submitted manuscript follows the ethical guidelines listed above for the use of animals in research.*

Signature Signature Signature

Name: Name: Name:

Date: