



**POLICY**  
**ON GOOD PRACTICE IN ANIMAL RESEARCH**

Text approved by resolution of the Board of  
Directors of 25 January 2024.

*(Free translation from the original in Spanish. In the event of discrepancy, the Spanish-language version prevails)*

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# POLICY ON GOOD PRACTICE IN ANIMAL RESEARCH

## 1. BASIS AND PURPOSE

The Viscofan Group (hereinafter "Viscofan") in its strategic development has been expanding the scope of its activities to new businesses in the field of bioengineering by developing new nutra-medical-pharmaceutical products, in line with the growth trends in the area of food, wellness and health.

Viscofan does not carry out direct animal testing, although the development of these new businesses is based on Research and Development (R&D) activities that require the collaboration of research centres and leading companies in their respective sectors in which animal research plays an essential role in the knowledge of the biological mechanisms involved in diseases and in the development of medical treatments, as for example in cardiac surgery studies in which the Viscofan Group has innovative developments.

In this context of undertaking this research activity, the welfare of experimental animals is a key issue, as is strict respect for and compliance with current legislation on the protection of animals used in experimentation and other scientific purposes, including teaching, and it is therefore necessary to establish a policy that reflects the Viscofan Group's commitments in this area.

The Board of Directors of Viscofan, within the framework of the General Sustainability Policy and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approves the Viscofan Group's Animal Research Best Practices Policy (hereinafter the "Policy"), with the aim of establishing, in undertaking research activities with animals in which it may participate directly or through collaborating centres or companies, its commitment to strict respect and compliance with current legislation and with the highest standards of protection of animals used in experimentation and other scientific purposes.

## 2. SCOPE

The Policy applies to all companies and employees of the Viscofan Group, as well as to third party collaborators, research centres or external companies that carry out animal research activities that Viscofan, directly or indirectly by virtue of collaboration and development agreements or others with the same purpose, may use when undertaking its activity, essentially in the field of its new bioengineering businesses.

### **3. PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION AND COMMITMENTS**

The principles and commitments that govern the Viscofan Group are as follows:

#### **a) Strict compliance with current legislation and international standards.**

Viscofan undertakes to strictly respect and comply with current legislation on the protection of animals used in experimentation and other scientific purposes, including teaching, and to demand the highest standards in this area from collaborators, research centres and companies with which it collaborates and carries out animal research activities, by signing up to the agreements on transparency and institutional declarations on animal experimentation, promoted by the most relevant associations such as the Confederation of Spanish Scientific Societies (COSCE), with the collaboration of the European Association for Animal Research (EARA).

In particular, Viscofan requires the institutions with which it collaborates, and which carry out animal research to comply with the following principles:

- Reduce the number of experimental animals to the absolute minimum.
- Replace them, where possible, with other methods of reliable verification.
- Refine experimental procedures to maximise animal welfare.

#### **b) Project pre-assessment.**

No research project in which Viscofan is directly or indirectly involved and which requires the use of animals can begin without the required ethical evaluation and final authorisation by the respective competent authority. The evaluation of experimental procedures and animal care procedures shall be carried out in accordance with the animal welfare guidelines of the relevant regulations, such as the European Directive 2010/63/EEC for the European Economic Area and its implementing legislation.

#### **c) Training.**

Viscofan will demand that its own personnel as well as those of collaborators, research centres and companies that care for the animals, such as researchers involved in animal experimentation, have the necessary training and competence, and that the necessary resources are available for the correct maintenance (facilities, maintenance and veterinary care) of the experimental animals.

#### **d) Monitoring.**

Viscofan shall regularly monitor the validity and application of the principles and commitments of the Policy both within the Group and by research centres or external collaborating companies that carry out animal research activities and to terminate such collaboration in the event of non-compliance by the latter with strict compliance with the law and existing institutional declarations on the matter. In this regard, audits may be conducted to verify the degree of compliance with the Policy.

#### 4. VALIDITY AND REVISIONS

The Policy shall enter into force on the next business day following its approval by the Board of Directors. It shall remain in force until such time as it is amended or repealed by a later one.

From its entry into force, Viscofan has six months to require research centres or companies that carry out research activities with animals and with which Viscofan has collaboration and development agreements to accredit their compliance with the relevant laws.

The Policy will be reviewed in the light of legal or business changes at any given time to maintain its relevance, adequacy and effectiveness.

This Policy is available on the Intranet for all employees and on the corporate website for all stakeholders of the Company.