



European Federation of Animal Technologists (EFAT) Statement 23rd April 2021

Undercover footage at the Laboratory of Vivotecnia by Cruelty Free International

EFAT strongly condemns and is disgusted by the conduct of the employees as shown in the video footage circulated by Cruelty Free International. How conduct like this appears to be occurring in this research facility is both distressing and shocking.

EFAT abhors and condemns what appears to be a breakdown in the Culture of Care in this laboratory, with some staff showing a complete lack of compassion, let alone any appropriate training in, or knowledge of, good practice. The clear examples of obvious distress shown by the animals, illegal activity, fearful postures and attempts to escape their handlers should not be seen in any facility. The individuals shown in the video **do not** represent what EFAT considers a professional Animal Technologist to be: a person who deeply cares and respects animals, who is trained and educated in animal technology practices and who always strives to provide the best environment and optimum care possible for the animals in their facility.

In view of the physiological and psychological distress exhibited by all the animals shown in the footage, it is also right to question the scientific validity of any results obtained under these conditions.

Vivotecnia's facilities, in Spain, have now been temporarily closed by the Madrid Competent Authorities and will remain in place until the findings of an investigation are published, following a call from a number of scientific organisations, including EARA, to launch an independent investigation into the situation.

The article suggests that this footage was captured over a 2-year period. Part of the investigations made should be into how and why this was not reported sooner. In every facility where a Culture of Care and education are a priority there should be an easy and confidential reporting mechanism / Whistle blowing policy.

Animal Technologists in Spain, distressed by the findings of this article, are urged to read the guidance on Technician Welfare published in Spanish

<https://www.efat.org/news>