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The rat in alcohol research was named
"Research Animal of the Year" by the German
Federal Association Humans for Animal Rights.
See news item in this edition. Please note,
the rat on our cover has nothing to do with
alcohol research: it is a free living, young rat
from our picture archive.

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Aims and scope

ALTEX, edited by the Swiss Society ALTEX Edition is the official journal of MEGAT, the Middle European Society for Alternatives to Testing in Animals. ALTEX is devoted to the publication of research on the development and promotion of alternatives to animal experiments according to the 3R concept of Russell and Burch: Replace, Reduce, and Refine. ALTEX is publishing original articles, short communications, reviews as well as news and comments, meeting reports and book reviews in English and German. Animal experiments are defined by the editors as all experimental procedures using animals which may cause pain, suffering, and emotional harm to animals and which are conducted in testing, research and education or to obtain tissues, organs, and other animal derived products.

Besides covering the biomedical aspects of animal experimentation, ALTEX is also devoted to the bioethics of the complex relationship between man and animals. Articles published in ALTEX should express a basic concern about the dignity of living creatures. ALTEX is not only aimed at developing a new approach to recognise animals as partners but it also intends to introduce a scientific sight in the discussions on animal experiments. Articles devoted to the social and ethical aspects of this topic will, therefore, be judged according to stringent scientific standards. Manuscripts submitted to ALTEX are evaluated by two reviewers. The evaluation takes into account the scientific merit of a manuscript and the contribution to animal welfare and the 3R-principle.

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