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Cover picture: A grey-cheeked mangabey
(*Cercocebus albigena*), illustrates the report
“research on primates – an ethical evaluation”
of the Swiss Ethics Committee on Non-human

Biotechnology (ECNH) and the Swiss Com-
mittee on Animal Experimentation (SCAE).
More pictures of primates are to be found in
the text (red bellied guenons and a barbary
ape). The photographs can be downloaded for
free from the website www.ekah.ch, but “Bu-
endia” must be acknowledged as the source.

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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 Alternative Methods to Animal Testing. 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 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.