

Indicators, management and utilisation of data for monitoring laboratory animal use and 3R alternatives

Marjolein Schilders-van Boxel¹, Coenraad Hendriksen¹, Herman Koëter¹, Jan-Bas Prins¹, Henriëtte Bout¹, Wim de Leeuw¹, Pieter Roelfsema¹, Frauke Ohl †¹, Frank Dales¹

¹Ministry of Economic Affairs, Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad), The Hague, Netherlands

In March 2015, the Minister of Agriculture (EZ) asked the National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad) to issue an advisory report on the management and use of data for monitoring laboratory animal use and 3R alternatives for the Reduction, Replacement and Refinement of laboratory animal use. The guiding principle of the advisory report, which was published in two parts, is the Minister's ambition to promote animal welfare and to minimise the number of animal procedures as much as possible.

The NCad recommends compliance with government policy on open data, with regard to all information made available by the government on laboratory animal use, animal procedures, and 3R alternatives. Publication of such material is subject to the restrictions imposed by privacy sensitivity and the protection of intellectual property. In this regard, Dutch practice goes further than is usual in Europe. In the interests of establishing a level playing field, The NCad advises the Minister to commit herself to a European open data policy as well. The open data should be made available in the form of a central data warehouse that is publicly accessible via a website. This central data warehouse should also contain information provided by practitioners working in the field. The data sets contained in this data warehouse should be structured in a way that enables matrix connections to be established, and that enables data to be regrouped and analysed. Furthermore it must be ensured that links can be established with information about laboratory animal use held in the existing databases. This must be done in a way that will make it possible to generate regular, detailed trend analyses of laboratory animal use in prioritised categories of research.

The improved insight into laboratory animal use that this will deliver, together with the development and application of 3R alternatives, may result in the more efficient use of this information. It may also improve policy management and study design, while providing a better basis for the development and implementation of 3R alternatives.

The centralised data warehouse should be built up in stages, whereby the government should take the initiative during the first stage.

The minister of Agriculture has embraced the opinion of the NCad and has commissioned the National Institute for Public Health (RIVM) to set up the centralised data warehouse. This poster will give an overview of the advisory report by the NCad and the actions taken by the stakeholders ever since.

Reference

<https://www.ncadierproevenbeleid.nl/documenten/rapport/2015/11/26/ncad-advisory-report-data-and-monitoring>