

The Netherlands Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad) - highlights from its first two years of existence.

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In the Netherlands, the government, the scientific community, industry and civil society organisations have been working hand in hand for years on the responsible use of animals in research (including scientific research) and education. The Experiments on Animals Act (Wet op de dierproeven, Wod) came into force in the Netherlands in 1977. This Act protects the welfare of laboratory animals, establishes frameworks with which procedures must comply and imposes requirements on the levels of expertise expected of those who work with laboratory animals. In late 2014, the Experiments on Animals Act was revised to bring it into compliance with the European Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (2010/63/EU). Since then, two new organisations have been active in the matter: the Central Authority for Scientific Procedures on Animals (CCD), which as an independent administrative body is the only organisation authorised to grant project licences for the performance of animal procedures in the Netherlands, and the Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad), which has been appointed as an advisory body for the protection of animals used in research and education. These are two independent organisations, but together they contribute to improving the welfare of laboratory animals.

In order to achieve its objective, the NCad issues solicited and unsolicited opinions, fosters the development of knowledge, and builds national and international networks relating to laboratory animals, animal procedures and the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement thereof. In 2016, the NCad issued six solicited and one unsolicited opinion (against two solicited advisory reports in 2015). The committee also organised an international symposium, which helped with the further expansion of an international network. In 2015, the NCad had already taken the initiative for an informal workshop for (technical) representatives of National Committees of European Member States. When developing the opinions, the NCad was grateful to be able to draw on the expertise of many experts from both the Netherlands and beyond.

This poster will give an overview of the mission, advisory reports and other (international) activities by the NCad, its procedures for issuing opinions and plans.

Reference

<https://english.ncadierproevenbeleid.nl/>