

ASPA e-Newsletter: August 2010

Europe – Revision of Directive 86/609

The directive is due to be discussed by the European Parliament in early September and all the signs are that it will be finally adopted shortly thereafter

Annual Report

This is the second year in which our two units, Animals Scientific Procedures Division (ASPD) and Inspectorate (ASPI), have come together to produce one report of our year's work. It provides details of our core statutory work in terms of licences issued and inspections performed during the year. Read the complete [animals and scientific procedures inspectorate and division annual report 2009](#).

IT Strategy

The current need to seek high level approval for all Government IT projects has slowed down progress with our aim to establish end-to-end e-licensing. However we are continuing to press the case, both for our benefit and for those regulated under ASPA. Meanwhile, a User Group of volunteers from a range of various backgrounds has been set up and these individuals will be helping us to pilot the system as it is being developed

Annual Statistics

The full report of the 2009 statistics on scientific procedures on living animals is available on the Home Office's [research developments statistics website \(new window\)](#).

The key points are:

- just over 3.6 million scientific procedures were started in Great Britain in 2009, falling 1 per cent (-37,000)
- breeding to produce genetically modified (GM) animals and harmful mutants (HM) increased by 10 per cent (+143,000) to 1.5 million procedures, accounted for by mice (+161,000)
- excluding such breeding, the numbers of procedures fell from 2.3 million to 2.1 million (-8 per cent or -180,000)
- for the first time, procedures using genetically 'normal' animals were less than half the total (48 per cent)
- there was an increase of 9 per cent in numbers of procedures involving mice, a fall of 7 per cent for non human primates, and falls for most other species
- the total number of procedures was a third (+33 per cent or +905,000) higher in 2009 than in 2000, mostly accounted for by breeding to produce GM and HM animals (+834,000 higher, of which mice +734,000). Excluding such breeding, the total was slightly higher than in 2000 (+3% or +70,000).

As usual there was a variety of media coverage, including:-

http://www.economist.com/node/16693872?story_id=16693872

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/7913646/More-than-half-animal-tests-use-GM-species.html>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/the-gm-revolution-in-britains-medical-research-laboratories-2036977.html?action=Popup>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2010/jul/27/number-animal-experiments-uk-falls>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2010/07/28/mutant-lab-animals-are-on-the-rise-115875-22445462/#ixzz0uxqPKV9v>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-10774409>

Animal research & testing website

We apologise for any problems some of you may have had in downloading application forms from our website and accessing information on the National Archive site. Our technical people are working on correcting the problems which we trust will soon be resolved.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/animal-research/>

Applications for licences supporting documents

When applying for licences it is now acceptable to send in a photocopy of training certificates such as modular training. Please do not send in originals.

Freedom of Information and ASPA

The Laboratory Animal Science Association (LASA) Home Office Liaison Officers' Forum (HOLF) in conjunction with Understanding Animal Research (UAR) is hosting a one day meeting on *Freedom of Information (FOI) and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act (ASPA)*.

This meeting, scheduled to take place on Thursday 30th September (venue details will be provided to attendees in due course), is aimed primarily but not exclusively at Home Office Liaison officers (HOLOs) from academia and FOI officers, for whom it will be most relevant. Certificate Holders from academia are also welcome.

Invitations have already been sent out to FOI Officers and HOLOs but the list of LASA and UAR contacts may not be exhaustive so the organisers would be grateful if Certificate Holders could ensure that this invitation is communicated to the appropriate people at their establishments. For further details please contact h.o.admin@leeds.ac.uk

NC3Rs

The latest NC3Rs newsletter can be read at:
<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/news.asp?id=1393>

2010 Lay Members Forum

The next RSPCA Lay Members Forum will take place on Tuesday 19th October 2010 in central London.

The format for the day will be similar to successful meetings held in previous years. In the morning presentations and discussion on specific topics which have been requested by lay members (currently: severity categorisation, welfare assessment, approaches to experimental design and to alternatives). In the afternoon there will be an update on topical issues from the Home Office Chief Inspector followed by consideration of how function two (examining project licence applications) is addressed across a range of establishments.

Further information and a registration form can be obtained by emailing: erp-laymembers@rspca.org.uk. The closing date for registration is Friday 8th October 2010.

The Home Office Research and testing using animals website provides practitioners with guidance on licence applications and related legislation

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/animal-research/>

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