

ASPA e-Newsletter: July 2011

Coalition commitments relating to the use of animals in scientific research

A Written Ministerial Statement was published on the 18 July on the two commitments relating to the use of animals in scientific research.

The full text is attached as an Annex.

Consultation on options for the transposition of European Directive 2010/63/EU

Supplementary Question

We have omitted to mention thematic reviews (covered by Article 58) in the consultation paper, please take this into consideration when responding to the consultation.

Article 58: Review

183A. Article 58 requires the Commission to review the Directive by 10 November 2017 taking account of developments in the 3Rs and to propose amendments, where appropriate.

183B. Article 58 also requires the Commission to conduct periodic thematic reviews of the application of the 3Rs, paying specific attention to non-human primates, technological developments, and new scientific and animal welfare knowledge. The Commission is to conduct these periodic thematic reviews in consultation with Member States and other stakeholders.

Question 58A: We strongly support the requirement for periodic thematic reviews. What structure would you like to see to the thematic review process? Are there any further issues we should consider in relation to Article 58?

ASPD/ASPI Annual Report 2010

The [2010 animals and scientific procedures inspectorate and division annual report](#) covers topics such as licensing and inspection, compliance and infringement, and initiatives.

Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2010

The full report of the 2010 statistics on scientific procedures on living animals is available on the [Research and statistics section of the website](#).

LASA WINTER MEETING

The LASA winter meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 November to Friday 2 December, 2011 at a London venue. Booking forms will be available soon, please note that the deadline for early registration is 30 September.

Further information can be found on the LASA website www.lasa.co.uk/lasa_meetings.html

NC3Rs

The latest news can be found at: <http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/>

Understanding Animal Research

The latest news can be found at:

<http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/homepage>

RSPCA/UFAW Rodent Welfare Group meeting 2011

The RSPCA/UFAW Rodent Welfare Group brings together people from a range of backgrounds with a common interest in the behaviour and welfare of laboratory rodents. .

The seventeenth annual meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 September 2011 in Hertfordshire. The topic for this year's meeting will be the welfare issues – both positive and negative – associated with the application of new technologies, such as imaging, telemetry and automated blood sampling.

The registration cost for the meeting is £35, which covers lunch and refreshments. If you would like to attend on the day, please contact the RSPCA at:

Research_Animals@rspca.org.uk

Animals Scientific Procedures Division Home Office Science

Annex

Written Ministerial Statement

Use of Animals in Scientific Research

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): The coalition agreement includes two commitments relating to the use of animals in scientific research: to end the testing of household products on animals; and to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research.

We believe these are ambitious but essential and achievable goals and that scientific advances present significant opportunities to replace animal use, to reduce the number of animals used, and, where animal use is unavoidable, to refine the procedures involved so as to minimise suffering. These long-standing aims are referred to as the 3Rs.

I am, therefore, pleased to inform the House that the Government have agreed arrangements to deliver both commitments.

The commitment to end the testing of household products on animals will be implemented using the licensing powers provided under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 by adding a condition to relevant project licences.

Before implementing the licence condition, I propose to consult with establishments holding relevant project licences to confirm the economic impact. I propose also to consult with establishments, relevant trade bodies and other stakeholders to agree a working definition of household product to accompany the condition.

The commitment to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research will be delivered through a science-led programme led by the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), an organisation with a strong record in reducing animal use. The NC3Rs will closely involve Government Departments and agencies, the Home Office Inspectorate, the

research community in both academia and industry, and others with relevant animal welfare interests.

The programme will focus on refinement as well as reduction and replacement and will co-ordinate action to minimise and reduce animal use and suffering while avoiding actions which might simply drive work abroad to countries where lower standards or less stringent testing guidelines apply.

Key areas of activity will include exploiting the latest developments in science and technology to reduce animal use; facilitating data sharing and collaboration across industry and academia; providing an evidence base for changes to international regulations which require animal use; a continuing focus on the 3Rs and the use of non-human primates; and ensuring that the 3Rs are at the heart of the training of the research leaders of the future.