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Home Office

Code of Practice for the Care and Accommodation of Animals Bred, Supplied or Used for Scientific Purposes

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Code of Practice for the Care and Accommodation of Animals Bred, Supplied or Used for Scientific Purposes

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 21 (5) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

March 2026

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Executive Summary

This Code of Practice (CoP) contains minimum standards for the care and accommodation of animals at licensed breeder, supplier, and user establishments in accordance with the requirements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 as amended in 2026 (ASPA, 'the Act').

The purpose of this CoP is to ensure that the design, construction and function of the installations and equipment of licensed establishments – along with their staffing, care and practices – allow procedures to be carried out as effectively as possible.

This document is designed to be used in conjunction with non-statutory sources of current leading practice, such as resources produced by the National Centre for the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of Animals in Research (NC3Rs).

The document is divided into two sections:

- A chapter containing information **relevant to all species**.
- **Species-specific** chapters containing information relevant only to those species.

The purpose and key intended outcomes of this CoP are:

- To ensure that the design, construction and function of the installations and equipment of licensed establishments allow procedures to be carried out as effectively as possible whilst ensuring protection for the animals they house;
- To promote good animal welfare through the provision of consistent, high-quality care and accommodation;
- To support the generation of high quality, reliable scientific results through the reduction of environmental variables;
- To implement the principles of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) through using the minimum number of animals and causing the minimum degree of pain, suffering, distress, or lasting harm.

Please note, the CoP is not intended as a substitute for proper training. The requisite training requirements for those who conduct research involving animals as laid out in ASPA can be found in the 'Guidance on training and continuous professional development under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986' document

Animals in Science Regulation Policy Unit, 2026

Introduction

1 Background

This CoP document is issued under section 21 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA) as amended in 2012.

Section 21(2) of ASPA states that the Secretary of State shall:

"Issue codes of practice as to the care of protected animals and their use for regulated procedures…"

This document fulfils this requirement by outlining the legal minimum standards required for the **care and accommodation** of animals held in establishments licensed under ASPA.

This CoP is separate to the 'Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986' (the Guidance)[1] which relates to their **use** in scientific procedures, and how to comply with the legislation more broadly.

2 Why does this CoP exist?

The purpose of the CoP is to ensure that the design, construction, and method of functioning of the installations and equipment of licensed establishments – along with their staffing, care and practices – allow procedures to be carried out as effectively as possible whilst complying with ASPA and the principles of the 3Rs.

In addition, there may be scenarios in which conflicting interests between the scientific requirements of the study and the needs of the animals involved arise. This CoP exists to ensure that, under these circumstances, the basic physiological and ethological needs of the animals (freedom of movement, social contact, meaningful activity, nutrition, water) should be restricted only for the minimum necessary period of time and degree. Such restrictions should be reviewed by scientists, animal technicians and those competent persons charged with advisory duties in relation to the well-being of the animals before procedures are undertaken, to ensure that the extent of the compromise to animal welfare is minimised to a level consistent with the scientific objectives of the study.

3 To whom and where does this CoP apply?

If an establishment is licensed for breeding, supplying and/or using animals under section 2C of ASPA, it must abide by the mandatory standards within this CoP for all protected animals[2] held at the establishment that will be, are being, or have been used for a licensed purpose.[3]

In Great Britain, this CoP is administered by the Home Office. In Northern Ireland, it is administered by the Department of Health and Social Services. Where the CoP refers to the "Secretary of State" or "the Home Office" it means, in Northern Ireland, the Department of Health and Social Services.

[1] The Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 March 2014 https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-on-the-operation-of-the-animals-scientific-procedures-act-1986

[2] A "protected animal" means any living vertebrate other than man and any living cephalopod.

[3] The applying of regulated procedures to protected animals; the breeding of animals listed in schedule 2 of ASPA with a view to their use in regulated procedures or the use of their tissues or organs for scientific purposes, or the breeding of protected animals (other than animals listed in schedule 2 of ASPA) primarily for these purposes; or the keeping of relevant protected animals which have been bred elsewhere and are to be supplied with a view to their use elsewhere in regulated procedures or the use elsewhere of their tissues or organs for scientific purposes.

4 When does the CoP come into force?

This CoP replaces the CoP published in December 2014 and will come into force on 25th June 2026.

5 What is 'Care and Accommodation'?

"Care and accommodation," used in the context of animals in science covers all material and non-material resources provided by humans to obtain and maintain an animal in a physical and mental state where it suffers least, and which promotes good science.

It starts from the moment the animal is intended to be used in procedures, including breeding or keeping for that purpose, and continues until it is humanely killed (or rehomed or set free, as appropriate) after the completion of the procedure(s).

6 From where does the content originate?

The standards are originally derived from Annex III of the 2010 European Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes[4]

In some instances, the standards detailed within this document will not directly match those in Annex III. This is because the UK used a derogation to retain higher standards that were already in force when Annex III was brought in.

7 What is new in this version?

The legal standards section in this document is derived from Section 2 of the previous CoP which was published in 2014. Further changes that have been made in this version are:

- Section 1 of the 2014 CoP was superseded in 2017 so has been removed from this version;
- Section 3 of the 2014 CoP, which previously advised advisory standards on 'best practice' at the time of publication, has been removed and republished separately. This has been done to:
    - Clarify that all standards in this updated CoP are mandatory.
    - Reflect that leading practice is continually being updated. The Home Office is exploring a more dynamic approach to leading practice, avoiding linking standards that may require regular updates to a statutory document. Further guidance on this aspect will be given in due course. Until that time, the re-published document provides a supportive document that will continue to be available for reference (see below).

Other changes to this version (compared to the 2014 version) include:

- References to EU legislation, except where relevant for historical background, have been removed following the UK's exit from the European Union;
- Corrections have been made where minor errors were present e.g. spelling mistakes;
- Minor formatting and wording changes have been made to facilitate ease of use and accessibility of information.

[4] Annex III of the Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (22 September 2010) on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

8 What is the vision for next steps?

The Home Office envisages leading practice of the application of the 3Rs and animal welfare to be a dynamic process in the context of regulation. A leading practice framework will be designed so as to continually raise the bar on animal welfare and science as new approaches become available.

Nevertheless, the separately re-published 2014 advisory standards will continue to be available for reference until such times as the Home Office publishes an updated leading practice.

9 How to use this CoP

This CoP lays out **standards applicable to all species** and the general principles to which you are expected to adhere. You are also expected to consult the relevant **species-specific chapters** to supplement this where appropriate.

In addition to the CoP, you should consider the use of the advisory standards and leading practice to:

- Help you to understand how the standards in this CoP might be met;
- Guide you where there are no standards applicable for your species or situation; and
- Help you improve your facilities or working practices, where applicable.

Please note, the CoP may specify different standards depending on whether the animals are being bred, supplied, used or kept in stock for scientific purposes.

The following definitions apply:[5]

Breeding animals	Protected animals[6] in a breeding programme, or being kept for use in a breeding programme, where they and/or their offspring are subsequently intended for use in a regulated procedure, or their tissues or organs are intended for use for scientific purposes. This includes all females that have been mated, and stud males. It includes the breeding of genetically altered animals and harmful mutants authorised in Project Licences.[7]
Supply animals	Protected animals kept or which have been kept for the purpose of being supplied for use in a regulated procedure, or for the use of their tissues or organs for scientific purposes.
Use animals	Protected animals being or which have been used in a regulated procedure, or which are being or have been kept for use in a regulated procedure, other than where the regulated procedure is the breeding of genetically altered animals or harmful mutants.

Should behaviour or breeding problems occur at any point, or should you require further information, you should seek the advice of animal care staff, the Named Veterinary Surgeon and/or other specialists.

Definitions of terms can be found in the Glossary.

[5] Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 as amended in 2012, sections 2B and 15A (11).
[6] As defined in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 as amended in 2012, section 2B.
[7] When breeding genetically altered animals, an assessment must be made of any potential differences to the requirements for care and accommodation brought about by the genetic alteration. Where additional requirements are identified they must be provided, unless withholding them is authorised in the Project Licence.

10 The CoP's legal status

10.1 Mandatory Standards

This document provides the mandatory legal minimum standards required by ASPA.

Alternative documents produced by establishments and/or relevant stakeholder groups should not contradict any statutory standard provided in this CoP, unless there is a scientific reason for deviation as outlined in section 10.3.

10.2 Non-compliance with this CoP

Section 21(4) of ASPA states:

"A failure on the part of any person to comply with any provision of a code… shall not of itself render that person liable to criminal or civil proceedings but - (a) any such code shall be admissible in evidence in any such proceedings; and (b) if any of its provisions appears to the court … to be relevant … it shall be taken into account [in determining the outcome of the case]"

In addition, standard condition 4 of Establishment Licences describes the requirement to provide adequate and appropriate standards of care and accommodation. Those standards will be taken from this CoP, and therefore a failure to meet the mandatory standards of the CoP may constitute a breach of standard condition 4 of the Establishment Licence.

If an establishment fails to meet the minimum legal standards as described in this CoP it is likely to be in breach of standard condition 4 of the Establishment Licence.

Any breach of this CoP will be presented as evidence in any relevant criminal or civil case or action for breach of licence conditions taken by the Secretary of State or others.

10.3 Specifying deviations from CoP standards

10.3.1 Specifying deviations from the CoP

Where deviation from standards laid down in this CoP is required for scientific reasons, authorisation for the deviation must be specified in the Project or Establishment Licence. This must be preceded by a local ethical review by the establishment's AWERB, who will assess the justification for the deviation. Only after AWERB review and with approval by the Secretary of State (a task delegated to the Regulator) will authorisation be granted. Normally, authorisation will only be given with specific justification provided by the establishment.

Where deviation from standards laid down in this CoP is required temporarily as a part of treatment the animal is receiving as recognised veterinary practice under the care of a veterinary surgeon, for example confinement in order to enforce rest, such a deviation will fall under the Veterinary Surgeons Act and will not require authorisation in the Project or Establishment Licence.

There are some circumstances when deviation from standards laid down in this CoP is required for a short period on isolated occasions for animal health or welfare reasons. For example, temporary single housing of a social species may be required for a short time after weaning if there is a single mouse in a litter, prior to the animal being issued on procedure.

Such deviations must be for only the period necessary and must be specified by the agreement of the appropriate named persons (normally NVS and NACWO). Such agreements should be documented, and records made available to the Regulator on request.

Should the event become regular and/or predictable, for example because it becomes apparent that a certain strain of mouse has a high frequency of producing litters with single offspring, local authorisation may no longer be appropriate, and Project or Establishment Licence authorisation may be required. However, in accordance with ASPA section 2(8) practices undertaken for the purposes of recognised animal husbandry will not require licence authority and may be continued with the ongoing agreement of the appropriate named persons.

If there is any doubt as to what type of authorisation is appropriate you should seek advice from the Home Office Regulator.

10.3.2 Specific circumstances within agricultural research

During research involving farm animals, the standards for care and accommodation shall comply at least with those set out in Chapter 8 ‘Farm animals (including equines)’, except where the aim of the project requires that animals are kept under conditions similar to those under which commercial farm animals are kept. The keeping of the animals shall comply at least with the standards laid down in the relevant legislation governing the keeping of farm animals in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland respectively, and any relevant statutory codes which relate to those standards. Authority to use such standards in place of these ASPA CoP standards should be specified in the Project or Establishment Licence after local ethical review and on approval by the Secretary of State.

10.4 Where standards do not exist in this CoP – the Standards Cascade

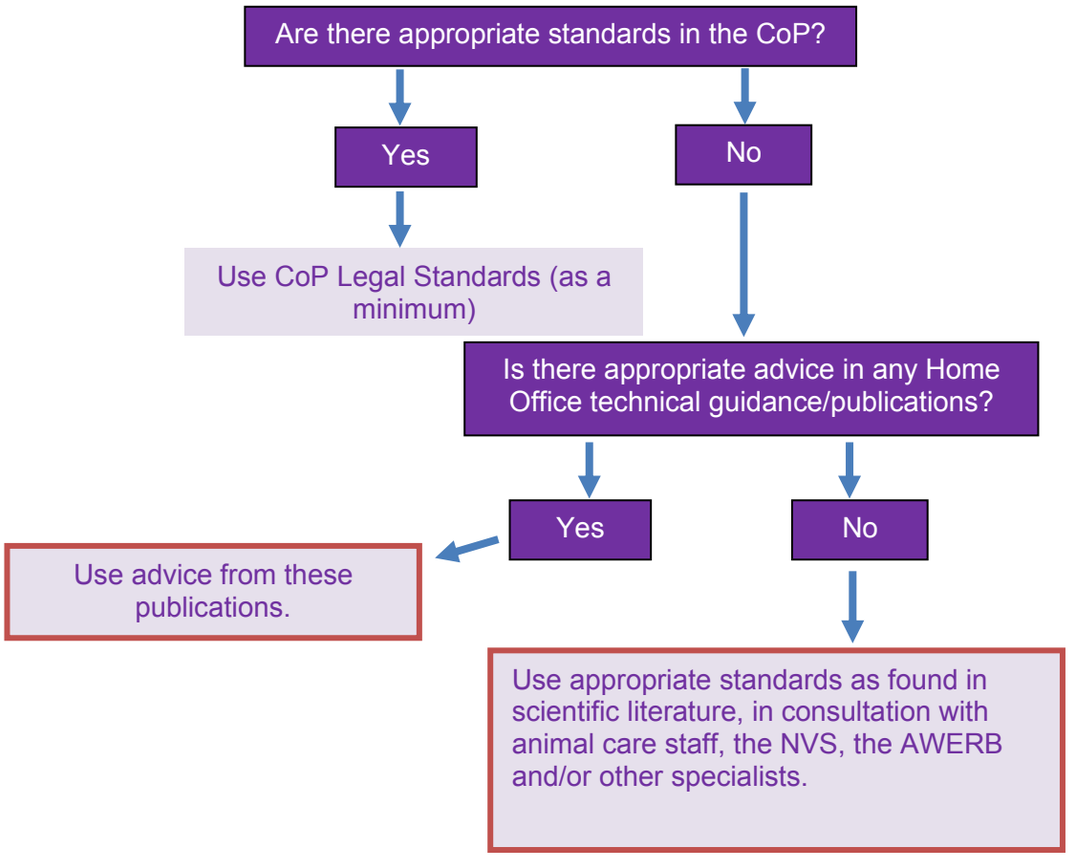
This CoP does not necessarily provide standards for all species and circumstances. Where standards are not given in the CoP (for example for a particular species or circumstance) there is no legal minimum standard laid down.

Where no relevant standard is presented in the CoP, establishments will be expected to consider relevant publications on leading practice. This could include, but is not limited to, publications by the NC3Rs, the ASC and Home Office Regulator.

Where no relevant advice can be found in either this document OR wider 'leading practice' publications, establishments will be expected to apply appropriate standards as found in the scientific literature, in consultation with the NACWO, the NVS, the AWERB and/or other specialists.

For the purposes of compliance, where this cascade has been used the standards within the red-framed boxes will be treated as advice.

Note: the former Section 3 (leading practice) is now published separately on Gov.uk.



11 Audits

Inspectors will use the standards within this CoP to assess whether the care and accommodation provided by the establishment meet the requirements of ASPA and standard condition 4 of the Establishment Licence.

Failure to meet the legal minimum standards set out in this CoP is likely to result in non-compliance action.

For more information on Audits, please read the latest guidance available on Gov.uk.

12 How the CoP will be reviewed and updated

This CoP will be reviewed and updated from time to time, following appropriate consultation, to reflect any changes in standards.

Glossary

This glossary provides definitions for words/phrases that are found within this document and/or that are likely to arise during further reading

Animals in Science Committee (ASC)	The independent non-departmental public body set up under ASPA sections 19 and 20. It is responsible for providing impartial, balanced and objective advice to the Home Office on issues relating to ASPA.
AWERB	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body. Every licensed establishment is required by ASPA to have an AWERB. Its membership and activities are defined by ASPA.
Body condition	See condition scoring.
Brooder lamp	A heat lamp with a controllable or known temperature output.
Condition scoring	An objective system of evaluating an animal's body condition (amount of stored fat) and assigning a numeric value
Conspecifics	Belonging to the same biological species.
Cubicle	Individual cow bedding spaces separated by half height and half length partitions. Usually located in loose housing cow accommodation in which the cow is free to wander at will.
Enclosure	The primary accommodation in which the animal is confined, for example a cage, pen, run or stall. It is the extent to which the enclosed animal can freely range.
Environmental enrichment	The practice of providing animals under managed care with stimuli such as natural and artificial objects which promote the expression of species-appropriate behavioural and mental activities.
Establishment	A place holding a licence that has been granted under section 2C of ASPA.
Establishment Licence (PEL)	A licence granted to a place under section 2C of ASPA.
Fill and dump system	A water cleaning system where there is no through flow of water. A proportion of water volume is extracted and replaced at regular intervals in order to keep the aquatic environment healthy. The volume and frequency of the exchange depends on the species requirements.
Filter top cage	A cage box with a wire or plastic structure on the top of the cage with filter element. These cages are housed in standard racks.
Floor area	The footprint of the enclosure. Whether or not shelving may contribute to floor area varies according to the species being kept and the space below the shelf.
Flow system	A continuous matched top up and outflow of water in and out of tanks to keep the aquatic environment healthy.
Group housed	Housed as two or more animals within the same enclosure.
Harem (guinea pig)	A group of guinea pigs – typically one male with one to ten females.
Headweaving	A stereotypical behaviour where the animal repeatedly moves its head from side to side, while keeping its body relatively still.
Health status	The presence or absence of infectious or non-infectious disease or abnormality in an individual or population.
Height	The vertical distance between the enclosure floor and the top of the enclosure. This height should apply over more than 50% of the minimum enclosure floor area prior to the addition of enrichment devices
Holding room	Secondary accommodation in which the animal enclosure(s) may be located, as specified in the schedule of premises of the Establishment Licence.
Inspector	An inspector in the Home Office appointed under ASPA section 18.
Isolator	A device that creates a barrier to maintain an internal condition (e.g. sterile or aseptic).
Mismothering	Failure of maternal behaviour that places the offspring at increased risk of suffering and/or harm.
NACWO	Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer.
Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS)	A member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, specified by the Establishment, to advise on the health, welfare and treatment of the animals.

Open-water systems	Enclosures within a larger body of water, for example a pond, lake, river or the sea.
Over	Greater than, a stated value, number, or level.
Pen	An area enclosed, for example, by walls, bars, or meshed wire in which one or more animals are kept. Depending on the size of the pen and the stocking density, the freedom of movement of the animals is usually less restricted than in a cage.
POLE	Place Other than a Licensed Establishment.
Post-weaned stock	Young animals that have been weaned from the dam being kept for a licensed purpose.
Procedure	A licensed procedure causes pain, suffering, distress, or lasting harm greater than or equal to the insertion of a hypodermic needle in accordance with good veterinary practice.
Procedure room	A room allocated for use for sterile and/or non-sterile procedures as specified in the schedule of premises of the Establishment Licence.
Production indices	Measurements of animal growth and production (e.g. milk production).
Project Licence (PPL)	A licence granted under section 5 of ASPA.
Protocol	A series of experimental steps defined in the Project Licence (PPL).
Re-use	The use of an animal in a protocol which has already been used in a previous protocol, where a naive animal could be used in its place. More information on re-use is available in the 'Use, Keeping Alive and Re-use' advice note available on Gov.uk.
Rooting	The natural behaviour of pigs and other animals to turn over soil or litter with their noses in search of edible matter.
Service room	A room within the facility which does not house animals and is not used for procedures, but contributes to the running of the facility, for example store rooms, cleaning and washing areas and waste management areas
Single housed	Housed as one animal per enclosure, where other animals are not able to physically occupy the same space. This definition applies regardless of the degree of contact (e.g. sight or smell) that the animal may have with others.
Stud animal	An animal used for breeding only.
Supplying	Selling or passing on animals for a purpose regulated under ASPA.
Up to	Less than or equal to, but not more than, a stated value, number, or level.
Using	Using an animal for a purpose regulated under ASPA.
Wild animal	A species or animal that has never been cared for or farmed by humans and is not descended from domesticated individuals.

Legal Standards

This section contains the legal minimum standards

Chapter 1: Standards applicable to all animals

1 The physical facilities

1.1 Functions and general design

All facilities shall be constructed to provide an environment which considers the physiological and ethological needs of the species kept in them.

Facilities shall also be designed and managed to prevent access by unauthorised persons and the ingress or escape of animals.

Establishments shall have an active maintenance programme to prevent and remedy any defect in buildings or equipment.

When designing procedures, consideration shall be given to the potential growth of the animals to ensure adequate space is provided for the duration of the study.

1.2 Holding rooms

Establishments shall have a regular and efficient cleaning schedule for the rooms and shall maintain satisfactory hygiene standards.

Walls and floors shall be surfaced with a material resistant to the heavy wear and tear caused by the animals and the cleaning process. The material shall not be detrimental to the health of the animals and shall be such that the animals cannot hurt themselves. Additional protection shall be given to any equipment or fixtures so that they are not damaged by the animals nor do they cause injury to the animals themselves.

Species that are incompatible, for example predator and prey, or animals requiring different environmental conditions, shall not be housed in the same room nor, in the case of predator and prey, within sight, smell or sound of each other.

1.3 General and special purpose procedure rooms

Establishments shall, where appropriate, have available laboratory facilities for the carrying out of simple diagnostic tests, post-mortem examinations, and/or the collection of samples that are to be subjected to more extensive laboratory investigations elsewhere. General and special purpose procedure rooms shall be available for situations where it is undesirable to carry out the procedures or observations in the holding rooms.

Facilities shall be provided to enable newly acquired animals of uncertain health status to be isolated until their health status can be determined and the potential health risk to established animals assessed and minimised.

There shall be accommodation for the separate housing of sick or injured animals.

1.4 Service rooms

Storerooms shall be designed, used and maintained to safeguard the quality of food and bedding. These rooms shall be vermin and insect-proof, as far as possible. Other materials, which may be contaminated or present a hazard to animals or staff, shall be stored separately.

The cleaning and washing areas shall be large enough to accommodate the installations necessary to decontaminate and clean used equipment. The cleaning process shall be arranged to separate the flow of clean and dirty equipment to prevent the contamination of newly cleaned equipment.

Establishments shall provide for the hygienic storage and safe disposal of carcasses and animal waste.

Where surgical procedures under aseptic conditions are required there shall be provision for one or more than one suitably equipped room, and facilities provided for postoperative recovery.

2 Environmental conditions

2.1 Ventilation and temperature

Insulation, heating, and ventilation of the holding room shall ensure that the air circulation, dust levels, and gas concentrations are kept within limits that are not harmful to the animals housed and are appropriate for the housing system in operation.

Temperature and relative humidity in the holding rooms shall be adapted to the species and age groups housed. The temperature shall be measured and logged on a daily basis.

Animals shall not be restricted to outdoor areas under climatic conditions which may cause them distress.

2.2 Lighting

Where natural light does not provide an appropriate light/dark cycle, controlled lighting shall be provided to satisfy the biological requirements of the animals and to provide a satisfactory working environment.

Illumination shall satisfy the needs for the performance of husbandry procedures and inspection of the animals.

Regular photoperiods and intensity of light adapted to the species shall be provided.

When keeping albino animals, the lighting shall be adjusted to take into account their sensitivity to light.

2.3 Noise

Noise levels, including ultrasound, shall not adversely affect animal welfare.

Establishments shall have alarm systems that sound outside the sensitive hearing range of the animals, where this does not conflict with their audibility to human beings.

Holding rooms shall, where appropriate, be provided with noise insulation and absorption materials.

2.4 Alarms

Establishments relying on electrical or mechanical equipment for environmental control and protection shall have a stand-by system to maintain essential services and emergency lighting systems as well as to ensure that alarm systems themselves do not fail to operate.

Heating and ventilation systems shall be equipped with monitoring devices and alarms.

Clear instructions on emergency procedures shall be prominently displayed.

3 Care of animals

3.1 Health

Establishments shall have a strategy in place to ensure that a health status of the animals is maintained that safeguards animal welfare and meets scientific requirements. This strategy shall include regular health monitoring, a microbiological surveillance programme and plans for dealing with health breakdowns and shall define health parameters and procedures for the introduction of new animals.

Animals shall be checked at least daily by a competent person[8]. These checks shall ensure that all sick or injured animals are identified, and appropriate action is taken.

[8] A person who has been trained and assessed as competent to perform daily routine health checks for the animals in question.

3.2 Animals taken from the wild

Transport containers and means of transport adapted to the species concerned shall be available at capture sites in case animals need to be moved for examination or treatment.

Special consideration shall be given, and appropriate measures taken for the acclimatisation, quarantine, housing, husbandry, care of animals taken from the wild and, as appropriate, provisions for setting them free at the end of procedures.

3.3 Housing and enrichment

3.3.1 Housing

Animals, except those which are naturally solitary, shall be socially housed in stable groups of compatible individuals. In cases where single housing is allowed[9] the duration shall be limited to the minimum period necessary and visual, auditory, olfactory and/or tactile contact shall be maintained where appropriate to the species, strain and sex. The introduction or re-introduction of animals to established groups shall be carefully monitored to avoid problems of incompatibility and disrupted social relationships.

3.3.2 Enrichment

All animals shall be provided with space of sufficient complexity to allow expression of a wide range of normal behaviour. They shall be given a degree of control and choice over their environment to reduce stress-induced behaviour. Establishments shall have appropriate enrichment techniques in place, to extend the range of activities available to the animals and increase their coping activities including physical exercise, foraging, manipulative and cognitive activities, as appropriate to the species. Environmental enrichment in animal enclosures shall be adapted to the species and individual needs of the animals concerned. The enrichment strategies in establishments shall be regularly reviewed and updated.

3.3.3 Animal enclosures

Animal enclosures shall not be made of materials detrimental to the health of the animals. Their design and construction shall be such that no injury to the animals is caused. Unless they are disposable, they shall be made from materials that will withstand cleaning and decontamination techniques. The design of animal enclosure floors shall be adapted to the species and age of the animals and be designed to facilitate the removal of excreta.

3.4 Feeding

The form, content and presentation of the diet shall meet the nutritional and behavioural needs of the animal.

The animals' diet shall be palatable and non-contaminated. In the selection of raw materials, production, preparation and presentation of feed, establishments shall take measures to minimise chemical, physical, and microbiological contamination.

Packing, transport, and storage shall be such as to avoid contamination, deterioration, or destruction. All feed hoppers, troughs or other utensils used for feeding shall be regularly cleaned and, if necessary, sterilised.

Each animal shall be able to access the food, with sufficient feeding space provided to limit competition.

[9] See Introduction paragraph 10.3: Specifying deviations from CoP standards.

3.5 Watering

Uncontaminated drinking water shall always be available to all animals.

When automatic watering systems are used, they shall be regularly checked, serviced, and flushed to avoid accidents. If solid-bottomed cages are used, care shall be taken to minimise the risk of flooding.

Provision shall be made to adapt the water supply for aquaria and tanks to the needs and tolerance limits of the individual fish, amphibian, and reptile species.

3.6 Resting and sleeping areas

Bedding materials or sleeping structures adapted to the species shall always be provided, including nesting materials or structures for breeding animals.

Within the animal enclosure, as appropriate to the species, a solid, comfortable resting area for all animals shall be provided. All sleeping areas shall be kept clean and dry.

3.7 Handling

Establishments shall set up habituation and training programmes suitable for the animals, the procedures and length of the project.

Chapter 2: Mice, rats, gerbils, hamsters, and guinea pigs

In this chapter “cage height” means the vertical distance between the enclosure floor and the top of the enclosure and this height applies over more than 50% of the minimum floor area prior to the addition of enrichment devices.

1 Mice

1.1 Accommodation specifications

1.1.1 Breeders including litters

Breeding animals

Table 2-1

	Minimum floor area (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Monogamous pair (outbred/ inbred) or trio (inbred)	330	12

For each additional female plus litter an additional 180 cm^2 shall be added.

1.1.2 Post-weaned stock

Breeding animals, supply animals

Table 2-2

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more mice (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 20	330	60	12
Up to 20*	950	40	12
Up to 20*	1500	30	12
Over 20 to 25	330	70	12
Over 25 to 30	330	80	12
Over 30	330	100	12

*Post-weaned mice may be kept at these higher stocking densities for the short period after weaning until issue, provided that the animals are housed in larger enclosures with adequate enrichment, and these housing conditions do not cause any welfare deficit such as increased levels of aggression, morbidity or mortality, stereotypies and other behavioural deficits, weight loss, or other physiological or behavioural stress response.

1.1.3 Mice being used in procedures

Use animals

Table 2-3

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more mice (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 20	330	60	12
Over 20 to 25	330	70	12
Over 25 to 30	330	80	12
Over 30	330	100	12

2 Rats

2.1 Accommodation specifications

2.1.1 Mother and litter

Breeding animals

Table 2-4

Minimum floor area (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
900	18

For each additional adult animal permanently added to the enclosure add 400 cm^2.

2.1.2 Post-weaned stock

Breeding animals, supply animals

Table 2-5

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more rats (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 20	330	60	12
Up to 200	800	200	18
Over 200 to 250	800	250	18
Over 250 to 300	800	250	20
Over 300 to 400	800	350	20
Over 400 to 600	800	450	20
Over 600	1500	600	20

Table 2-6*

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more rats (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 50	1500	100	18
Over 50 to 100	1500	125	18
Over 100 to 150	1500	150	18
Over 150 to 200	1500	175	18
Up to 100	2500	100	18
Over 100 to 150	2500	125	18
Over 150 to 200	2500	150	18

*Post-weaned rats may be kept at these higher stocking densities for the short period after weaning until issue, provided that the animals are housed in larger enclosures with adequate enrichment, and these housing conditions do not cause any welfare deficit such as increased levels of aggression, morbidity or mortality, stereotypies and other behavioural deficits, weight loss, or other physiological or behavioural stress response.

2.1.3 Rats being used in procedures.

Use animals

Table 2-7

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more rats (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 200	800	200	18
Over 200 to 250	800	250	18
Over 250 to 300	800	250	20
Over 300 to 400	800	350	20
Over 400 to 600	800	450	20
Over 600	1500	600	20

In long-term studies, if space allowances per individual animal fall below those indicated above towards the end of such studies, priority shall be given to maintaining stable social structures.

3 Gerbils

3.1 Accommodation specifications

3.1.1 Monogamous breeding pair or trio including litters.

Table 2-8

Breeding Animals

Minimum floor area (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
1200	20

3.1.2 Post-weaned Stock

Table 2-9

Breeding animals, supply animals

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more gerbils (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 40	1200	150	20
Over 40	1200	250	20

3.1.3 Gerbils being used in procedures.

Table 2-10

Use animals

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more gerbils (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 40	1200	150	18
Over 40	1200	250	18

4 Hamsters

4.1 Accommodation specifications

4.1.1 Mother and litter or monogamous breeding pair and litter

Breeding animals

Table 2-11

Minimum floor area (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
800	15

4.1.2 Post-weaned stock

Breeding animals, supply animals

Table 2-12

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more hamsters (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 60	800	150	15
Up to 60*	1500	100	15
Over 60 to 100	800	200	15
Over 100	800	250	15

*Post-weaned hamsters may be kept at these higher stocking densities for the short period after weaning until issue, provided that the animals are housed in larger enclosures with adequate enrichment, and these housing conditions do not cause any welfare deficit such as increased levels of aggression, morbidity or mortality, stereotypies and other behavioural deficits, weight loss, or other physiological or behavioural stress response.

4.1.3 Hamsters being used in procedures.

Use Animals

Table 2-13

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more hamsters (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 60	800	150	15
Over 60 to 100	800	200	15
Over 100	800	250	15

5 Guinea pigs

5.1 Accommodation specifications

5.1.1 Breeding pair with litter

Breeding animals

Table 2-14

Minimum floor area (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
2500	23

For each additional breeding female add 1000 cm^2.

5.1.2 Post-weaned stock and guinea pigs being used in procedures

All animals

Table 2-15

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more guinea pigs (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 150	1800	200	23
Over 150 to 200	1800	300*	23
Over 200 to 250	1800	350	23
Over 250 to 300	1800	400**	23
Over 300 to 450	1800	500	23
Over 450 to 650	2500	700	23
Over 650 to 700	2500	750**	23
Over 700	2500	900	23

* Where a shelf is provided for guinea pigs that are use animals or use stock animals, for the purpose of calculating the minimum floor area, up to 100 cm^2 of the shelf area per animal may be included where there is adequate height for the animal above and below the shelf.

** Where a shelf is provided for guinea pigs that are use animals or use stock animals, for the purpose of calculating the minimum floor area, up to 50 cm^2 of the shelf area per animal may be included where there is adequate height for the animal above and below the shelf.

Chapter 3: Rabbits

1 Accommodation specifications

A raised area shall be provided within the enclosure for all rabbits. This raised area must allow the animal to lie and sit and easily move underneath and shall not cover more than 40% of the floor space.

When for scientific, animal welfare or animal health reasons a raised area cannot be used (and licence authorisation has been granted), the enclosure shall be 33% larger for a single rabbit and 60% larger for two rabbits.

Where a raised area is provided for rabbits of less than ten weeks of age, the size of the raised area shall be at least 55 cm by 25 cm and the height above the floor shall be such that the animals can make use of it.

These requirements have been taken into account in calculating the dimensions provided in the tables below.

1.1 Doe plus litter

Breeding animals

Table 3-1

Weight of doe (kg)	Minimum total floor area – with nest box (cm^2) *	Minimum total floor area – no nest box (cm^2) **	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 3.0	4500	4000	45
Over 3.0 to 5.0	6400	6400	45
Over 5.0	6800	6400	60

*These measurements are to be used where a nest box is provided. If the nest box is outside the cage, the total floor area equals the floor area of the cage plus the floor area of the nest box. If the nest box is within the cage the total floor area equals the floor area of the cage. There are no minimum dimensions specified for nest boxes.

**These measurements are to be used where there is no nest box provided; they are derived from the amalgamation of ASPA standards with retained higher UK standards in existence prior to 2010.

1.2 Rabbits less than ten weeks of age

Breeding animals, supply animals

Table 3-2

Age (weeks)	Minimum floor area for one or more rabbits (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Weaning to 7	4000	1500	40
7 to 10	4000	1500 or 2000*	40 or 45**

*For rabbits over 2 kg the minimum floor area per animal shall be 2000 cm^2.

**For rabbits over 2 kg the minimum height shall be 45 cm.

1.3 Rabbits over ten weeks of age with a raised area within the cage or pen

Breeding animals, supply animals

Table 3-3

Final body weight (kg)	Minimum floor area for one animal (cm^2)	Minimum floor area for two socially harmonious animals (cm^2)	Minimum floor area for three socially harmonious animals (cm^2)	Minimum additional floor area per rabbit (cm^2) 4 to 6 rabbits	Minimum additional floor area per rabbit (cm^2) > 6 rabbits	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 2.0	3500	3500	6500	3000	2500	45
Over 2.0 to 2.5	3500	4000	6500	3000	2500	45
Over 2.5 to 3.0	3500	5000	7500	2500 or 3000*	2500	45
Over 3.0 to 3.5	4200	6000	9000	3000	3000	45
Over 3.5 to 4.0	4200	8000	12000	4000	4000	45
Over 4.0 to 5.0	5400	10800	16200	5400	5400	45
Over 5.0 to 6.0	5400	10800	16200	5400	5400	60
Over 6.0	6000	12000	18000	6000	6000	60

*For the fourth and fifth rabbits 2500 cm^2; for the sixth rabbit 3000 cm^2.

Use animals

Table 3-4

Final body weight (kg)	Minimum floor area for one animal* (cm^2)	Minimum floor area for two socially harmonious animals (cm^2)	Minimum floor area for three socially harmonious animals(cm^2)	Minimum additional floor area per rabbit (cm^2) 4 to 6 rabbits	Minimum additional floor area per rabbit (cm^2) > 6 rabbits	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 2.0	3500	3500	6500	3000	2500	45
Over 2.0 to 3.0	4000 *(500)*	5200* *(1486)*	7800* *(1300)*	3000	2600** *(100)*	45
Over 3.0 to 4.0	4200	5200* *(1000)*	7800* *(600)*	3000	2600** *(100)*	45
Over 4.0 to 5.0	5400 *(1200)*	6600* *(1886)*	9900* *(2700)*	3300** *(300)*	3300** *(800)*	45
Over 5.0 to 6.0	5400	6600* *(1200)*	9900* *(1500)*	3300** *(300)*	3300** *(800)*	60
Over 6.0	6000 *(600)*	8000* *(2286)*	12000* *(3429)*	4000* *(1143 or 1029 or 1000***)*	4000 *(1400 or 1143***)*	60

*For rabbits that are use animals, for the purpose of calculating the minimum floor area, an area of the raised area provided up to the figure in parentheses may be included.

**For rabbits that are use animals, for the purpose of calculating the minimum additional floor area per animal, an additional area of the raised area provided of up to the figure in parentheses may be included.

***The actual additional areas (cm^2) are: for the fourth animal 1143; for the fifth animal 1029; for the sixth animal 1000; for the seventh animal 1400 and thereafter 1143.

1.4 Optimum dimensions for raised areas referred to in tables 1-3-3 and 1-3-4

Table 3-5

Final body weight (kg)	Optimum size (cm²)	Optimum height from the enclosure floor (cm)
Up to 3.0	55 x 25	25
Over 3.0 to 5.0	55 x 30	25
Over 5.0	60 x 35	30

1.5 Rabbits over ten weeks of age with no raised area within the cage or pen

Breeding animals, supply animals

Table 3-6

Final body weight (kg)	Minimum floor area for one animal (cm^2)	Minimum floor area for two socially harmonious animals (cm^2)	Minimum floor area for three socially harmonious animals (cm^2)	Minimum additional floor area per rabbit (cm^2) 4 to 6 rabbits	Minimum additional floor area per rabbit (cm^2) > 6 rabbits	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 3	4655	5600	8600	3000	2500	45
Over 3.0 to 3.5	5586	6720	9720	3000	2500 or 2780 or 3000*	45
Over 3.5 to 4.0	5586	8000	12000	4000	4000	45
Over 4.0 to 5.0	5586	10800	16200	5400	5400	45
Over 5.0 to 6.0	7128	10800	16200	5400	5400	60
Over 6.0	7182	12000	18000	6000	6000	60

*For the seventh rabbit 2500 cm^2; for the eight rabbit 2780 cm^2; thereafter 3000 cm^2.

Use animals

Table 3-7

Final body weight (kg)	Minimum floor area for one animal (cm^2)	Minimum floor area for two socially harmonious animals (cm^2)	Minimum floor area for three socially harmonious animals (cm^2)	Minimum additional floor area per rabbit (cm^2) 4 to 6 rabbits	Minimum additional floor area per rabbit (cm^2) > 6 rabbits	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 3.0	4655	5600	8600	3000	2500	45
Over 3.0 to 3.5	4655	5600	8600	3000	2600	45
Over 3.5 to 4.0	5586	6720	9720	3000	2600	45
Over 4.0 to 5.0	5586	6720	9900	3300	3300	45
Over 5.0 to 6.0	7128	8640	11640	3000	2500 or 3260 or 3300*	60
Over 6.0	7182	8640	12000	4000	4000	60

*For the seventh rabbit 2500 cm^2; for the eighth rabbit 3260 cm^2; thereafter 3300 cm^2.

Chapter 4: Cats

1 Single housing

Cats shall not be single housed for more than 24 hours at a time. Cats that are repeatedly aggressive towards other cats shall be housed singly only if a compatible companion cannot be found. Social stress in all pair or group housed individuals shall be monitored at least weekly. Females with kittens under four weeks of age or in the last two weeks of pregnancy may be housed singly.

2 Accommodation specifications

Areas for feeding and for litter trays shall not be less than 0.5 metres apart and shall not be interchanged.

2.1 Queen and litter up to three weeks of age

Breeding animals

Table 4-1

The minimum space in which a queen and litter up to the age of three weeks may be held is the space for a single cat.

2.2 Queen and litter from three weeks of age to weaning

Breeding animals

Table 4-2

The minimum pen size for any holding of queens and litters is 2.0 m^2 and 2 m high, which shall be gradually increased so that by four months of age litters have been re-housed following the space requirements for adults.

2.3 Post-weaned stock, adult male and female brood stock and cats being used in procedures

Breeding animals, supply animals

Table 4-3

	Floor area excluding shelves (m^2)	Shelf area (m^2)	Height (m)
Minimum for one adult animal	1.5	0.5	2.0
For each additional animal add	0.75	0.25	–

Chapter 5: Dogs

1 Single housing

Dogs shall not be single housed for more than four hours at a time.

2 Accommodation specifications

Dogs shall where possible be provided with outside runs. If the enclosure incorporates an outside run, the internal area shall represent at least 50% of the minimum space to be made available to the animal(s).

The space allowances detailed below are based on the requirements of beagles, but giant breeds such as St Bernards or Irish Wolfhounds shall be provided with allowances significantly in excess of these. For breeds other than the laboratory beagle, space allowances shall be determined in consultation with veterinary staff.

2.1 Bitch and litter up to six weeks of age

Breeding animals

Table 5-1

A nursing bitch and litter shall have the same space allowance as a single bitch of equivalent weight. The whelping pen shall be designed so that the bitch can move to an additional compartment or raised area away from the puppies.

2.2 Post-weaned stock, brood stock and stud dogs

Breeding animals, supply animals

Table 5-2

Weight of animal (kg)	Minimum pen size (m^2)	Minimum floor space per group housed animal (m^2)	Minimum height (m)
Up to 5	4.5	0.5	2.0
Over 5 to 10	4.5	1.0	2.0
Over 10 to 15	4.5	1.5	2.0
Over 15 to 20	4.5	2.0	2.0
Over 20	8.0	4.0	2.0

2.3 Dogs being used in procedures

Use animals

Table 5-3

Weight of animal (kg)	Minimum pen size (m^2)*	Minimum floor area for one or two dogs (m^2)*†	For each additional animal add a minimum of (m^2)	Minimum height (m)
Up to 10	4.5	4.5	2.0	2.0
Over 10 to 20	4.5	4.5	2.25	2.0
Over 20	8.0	8.0	4.0	2.0

*Dogs that are pair or group housed may each be constrained to half the total space provided (2m² for a dog under 20 kg, 4 m² for a dog over 20 kg) while they are undergoing procedures, if this separation is essential for scientific purposes. The period for which a dog is so constrained shall not exceed four hours at a time.

†Where a shelf is provided for dogs that are use animals, for the purpose of calculating the minimum floor area, up to 0.5 m^2 of the shelf area may be included where there is adequate height for the animal above and below the shelf.

Chapter 6: Ferrets

1 Accommodation specifications

1.1 All ferrets

All animals

Table 6-1

Weight of animal (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more ferrets (cm^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)
Up to 600	4500	1500	50
Over 600	4500	3000	50
Adult male	6000	6000	50
Jill and litter	5400	5400*	50

*For the purposes of this table, a jill and litter shall be counted as one animal until the time of weaning.

Chapter 7: Non-Human Primates

1 Separation from the mother

Young non-human primates shall not be separated from their mothers until they are, depending on the species, 6 to 12 months old.

Table 7-1

Species	Age before which separation of young from the mother will not take place (months)
Marmosets and tamarins	8
Squirrel monkeys	6
Macaques and vervets	8
Baboons	8

2 Accommodation

The environment shall enable non-human primates to carry out a complex daily programme of activity.

The enclosure shall allow non-human primates to adopt as wide a behavioural repertoire as possible, provide it with a sense of security, and a suitably complex environment to allow the animal to run, walk, climb and jump.

2.1 Accommodation specifications – New World Primates

2.1.1 Marmosets (Callithrix) and Tamarins (Saguinus)

All animals

Table 7-2

	Minimum floor area of enclosures for 1* or 2 animals plus offspring up to 5 months old (m^2)	Minimum volume per additional animal over 5 months (m^3)	Minimum enclosure height (cm, floor of cage to roof of cage)**
Marmosets (use animals, use stock animals)	0.5	0.2	150
Marmosets (breeding animals, breeding stock animals, supply animals)	0.55	0.2***	150
Tamarins (use animals, use stock animals)	1.5	0.2	150
Tamarins (breeding animals, breeding stock animals, supply animals)	1.5	0.225	150

*Animals shall be kept singly only in exceptional circumstances, on animal health or welfare grounds or where permitted by Project Licence authority.

** The top of the enclosure shall be at least 180 cm from the floor of the room.

***The minimum floor area of enclosures for a marmoset breeding family group shall not be less than 1.0 m^2.

2.1.2 Owl monkeys (Aotus)

Breeding animals, supply animals

Table 7-3

	Minimum cage height (cm, floor of cage to roof of cage)	Minimum floor area (m^2)
Family group (maximum 5 animals)	150*	1.5
Stock animal up to 700g	150*	0.135 per animal; minimum floor area of 1.5
Stock animal over 700g	150*	0.2 per animal; minimum floor area of 1.5

* Top of cage must be minimum 180 cm from floor of room.

2.1.3 Squirrel monkeys (Saimiri)

All animals

Table 7-4

	Minimum floor area of enclosures for 1* or 2 animals (m^2)	Minimum volume per additional animal over 6 months (m^3)	Minimum enclosure height (cm)
All	2.0	0.5	180

*Animals shall be kept singly only in exceptional circumstances, on animal health or welfare grounds or where permitted by Project Licence authority.

2.2 Accommodation specifications – Old World Primates

*2.2.1 Macaques and vervets**

All animals

Table 7-5

	Minimum enclosure size (m^2)	Minimum enclosure volume (m^2)	Minimum volume per animal (m^3)	Minimum enclosure height (cm)
Animals less than 3 years old**	2.0	3.6	1.0	180
Animals from 3 years old***	2.0	3.6	1.8	180
Breeding animals****	–	–	3.5	200

* Animals shall be kept singly only in exceptional circumstances, on animal health or welfare grounds or where permitted by Project Licence authority.

**An enclosure of minimum dimensions may hold up to three animals.

***An enclosure of minimum dimensions may hold up to two animals.

****In breeding colonies no additional space/volume allowance is required for young animals up to two years of age housed with their mother.

2.2.2 Baboons*

All animals

Table 7-6

	Minimum enclosure size (m^2)	Minimum enclosure volume (m^2)	Minimum volume per animal (m^3)	Minimum enclosure height (cm)
Animals less than 4 years old**	4.0	7.2	3.0	180
Animals from 4 years old**	7.0	12.6	6.0	180
Breeding animals, breeding stock animals***	–	–	12.0	200

* Animals shall be kept singly only in exceptional circumstances, on animal health or welfare grounds or where permitted by Project Licence authority. Separation from the mother must not take place before 8 months of age.

**An enclosure of minimum dimensions may hold up to two animals.

***In breeding colonies no additional space/volume allowance is required for young animals up to two years of age housed with their mother.

Chapter 8: Farm animals (including equines)

For animals in agricultural research which are to be kept under commercial farming conditions, please see chapter 10.3.2 ‘Specific circumstances within agricultural research’.

1 Accommodation specifications

1.1 Cattle being used in procedures

Use animals

Table 8-1

Weight of animal (kg)	Minimum floor area for one or more animals (m^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (m^2)	Minimum length of feed rack or trough per animal (polled cattle) (m)	
			Ad libitum feeding	Restricted feeding
Up to 100	2.50	2.30	0.30	0.30
Over 100 to 150	4.25	3.40	0.35	0.50
Over 150 to 200	4.25	3.40	0.40	0.50
Over 200 to 400	6.00	4.80	0.55	0.60
Over 400 to 600	9.00	7.50	0.65	0.70
Over 600 to 800	11.00	8.75	0.65	0.80
Over 800	16.00	10.00	0.65	1.00

1.2 Sheep and goats being used in procedures

Table 8-2

Weight of animal (kg)	Minimum floor area one or more animals (m^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (m^2)	Minimum partition height (m)*	Minimum length of feed rack or trough per animal (m)	
				Ad libitum feeding	Restricted feeding
Up to 20	2.0	1.3	1.0	0.35	0.35
Over 20 to 35	2.0	1.3	1.2	0.35	0.35
Over 35 to 60	2.8	1.9	1.2	0.35	0.40
Over 60	3.0	1.9	1.5	0.35	0.50

*Minimum partition height applies only to goats. Due consideration should also be given to providing adequate partitions for certain agile breeds of sheep.

1.3 Pigs and minipigs being used in procedures

Use animals

Table 8-3

Live weight of animal (kg)	Minimum floor area for one or more animals (m^2)*	Minimum floor area per group housed animal (m^2)	Minimum lying space per animal (in thermoneutral conditions) (m^2)	Minimum length of feed rack or trough per animal (m)
Up to 5	2.0	1.00	0.10	0.20
Over 5 to 10	2.0	1.00	0.11	0.20
Over 10 to 20	2.0	1.00	0.18	0.20
Over 20 to 30	2.0	1.00	0.24	0.20
Over 30 to 50	2.0	1.30	0.33	0.25
Over 50 to 70	3.0	2.00	0.41	0.30
Over 70 to 100	3.0	2.00	0.53	0.30
Over 100 to 150	4.0	2.70	0.70	0.35
Over 150	5.0	3.75	0.95	0.40
Adult (conventional) boars	7.5	–	1.30	0.50

* Pigs may be confined in smaller enclosures for the short period of time, for example by partitioning the main enclosure using dividers, when justified on veterinary or experimental grounds, for example where individual food consumption is required.

1.4 Equines being used in procedures

Use animals

The shortest side shall be a minimum of 1.5 times the wither height of the animal. The height of indoor enclosures shall allow animals to rear to their full height.

Table 8-4

Height at withers (m)	Minimum floor area for each animal held singly or in groups of three or fewer (m^2 per animal)	Minimum floor area for each animal held singly or total space for groups of three or fewer (m^2 per animal).	Minimum floor area for foaling box or mare with foal (m^2)	Minimum enclosure height (m)
1.00 to 1.48	12.0	6.0	16	3.0
1.48 to 1.60	17.0	9.0	20	3.0
Over 1.60	20.0	$(2 \times WH)^2$*	20	3.0

* To ensure adequate space is provided, space allowances for each individual animal shall be based on height to withers (WH).

Chapter 9: Birds

For animals in agricultural research which are to be kept under commercial farming conditions, please see chapter 10.3.2 ‘Specific circumstances within agricultural research’.

1 Accommodation specifications

1.1 Chickens

All animals

Where these minimum enclosure sizes cannot be provided for scientific reasons, the duration of the confinement shall be justified by the experimenter in consultation with veterinary staff. In such circumstances, birds can be housed in smaller enclosures containing appropriate enrichment and with a minimum floor area of 0.75 m^2.

Table 9-1

Weight of bird (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more birds (m^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed bird (cm^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)	Minimum length of feed trough per bird (cm)
Up to 200	1.0	250	30	3
Over 200 to 300	1.0	300	30	3
Over 300 to 600	1.0	500	40	7
Over 600 to 1200	2.0	900	50	15
Over 1200 to 1800	2.0	1100	75	15
Over 1800 to 2400	2.0	1300	75	15
Over 2400	2.0	2100	75	15

1.2 Domestic turkeys

All animals

All enclosure sides shall be at least 1.5 m long. Where these minimum enclosure sizes cannot be provided for scientific reasons, the duration of the confinement shall be justified by the experimenter in consultation with veterinary staff. In such circumstances, birds can be housed in smaller enclosures containing appropriate enrichment and with a minimum floor area of 0.75 m^2 and a minimum height of 50 cm for birds below 0.6 kg, 75 cm for birds below 4 kg, and 100 cm for birds over 4 kg. These can be used to house small groups of birds in accordance with the space allowances given in table 9-2 below.

Table 9-2

Weight of bird (kg)	Minimum floor area for one or more birds (m^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed bird (m^2)	Minimum cage height (cm)	Minimum length of feed trough per bird (cm)
Up to 0.30	2.0	0.13	50	3
Over 0.3 to 0.6	2.0	0.17	50	7
Over 0.6 to 1.0	2.0	0.30	100	15
Over 1.0 to 4.0	2.0	0.35	100	15
Over 4.0 to 8.0	2.0	0.40	100	15
Over 8.0 to 12	2.0	0.50	150	20
Over 12 to 16	2.0	0.55	150	20
Over 16 to 20	2.0	0.60	150	20
Over 20	3.0	1.00	150	20

1.3 Quails

All animals

Table 9-3

Weight of bird (g)	Minimum enclosure size (m^2)	Minimum floor area per bird (m^2)		Minimum height (cm)	Minimum length of feed trough per bird (cm)
		Pair housed	Per additional bird if group housed		
Up to 150	1.00	0.50	0.10	20	4
Over 150	1.00	0.60	0.15	30	4

1.4 Ducks

All animals

Where these minimum enclosure sizes cannot be provided for scientific reasons, the duration of the confinement shall be justified by the experimenter in consultation with veterinary staff. In such circumstances, birds can be housed in smaller enclosures containing appropriate enrichment and with a minimum floor area of 0.75 m^2. These can be used to house small groups of birds in accordance with the space allowances given in table 9-4.

Table 9-4

Weight of bird (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more birds (m^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed bird (cm^2)*	Minimum cage height (cm)	Minimum length of feed trough per bird (cm)
Up to 300	2.0	1000	50	10
Over 300 to 1200	2.0	2000	200**	10
Over 1200 to 3500	2.0	2500	200	15
Over 3500	2.0	5000	200	15

* This shall include a **pond** of minimum area 0.5 m^2 per 2 m^2 enclosure with a minimum depth of 30 cm. The pond may contribute up to 50% of the minimum enclosure size.

** Pre-fledged birds may be held in enclosures with a minimum height of 75 cm.

1.5 Geese

All animals

Where these minimum enclosure sizes cannot be provided for scientific reasons, the duration of the confinement shall be justified by the experimenter in consultation with veterinary staff. In such circumstances, birds can be housed in smaller enclosures containing appropriate enrichment and with a minimum floor area of 0.75 m^2. These can be used to house small groups of birds in accordance with the space allowances given in table 9-5.

Table 9-5

Weight of bird (g)	Minimum floor area for one or more birds (m^2)	Minimum floor area per group housed bird (m^2)*	Minimum cage height (cm)	Minimum length of feed trough per bird (cm)
Up to 500	2.0	0.20	200	10
Over 500 to 2000	2.0	0.33	200	15
Over 2000	2.0	0.50	200	15

* This shall include a **pond** of minimum area 0.5 m^2 per 2 m^2 enclosure with a minimum depth of 10-30 cm. The pond may contribute up to 50% of the minimum enclosure size.

1.6 Pigeons

All animals

Enclosures shall be long and narrow (for example 2 m by 1 m) rather than square to allow birds to perform short flights.

Table 9-6

Group size	Minimum enclosure size (m^2)	Minimum height (cm)	Minimum length of feed trough per bird (cm)	Minimum length of perch per bird
Up to 6	2.00	200	5	30
7 to 12	3.00	200	5	30
Per each additional bird above 12	0.15	N/A	5	30

1.7 Zebra Finches

All animals

Enclosures shall be long and narrow (for example 2 m by 1 m) to enable birds to perform short flights. For breeding studies, pairs may be housed in smaller enclosures containing appropriate enrichment with a minimum floor area of 0.5 m^2 and a minimum height of 40 cm. The duration of the confinement shall be justified by the experimenter in consultation with veterinary staff.

Table 9-7

Group size	Minimum enclosure size (m^2)	Minimum height (cm)	Minimum number of feeders
Up to 6	1.00	100	2
7 to 12	1.50	200	2
13 to 20	2.00	200	3
Per each additional bird above 20	0.05	N/A	1 per 6 birds

Chapter 10: Fish

1 Water supply and quality

Adequate water supply of suitable quality shall be provided at all times. Water flow in re-circulatory systems or filtration within tanks shall be sufficient to ensure that water-quality parameters are maintained within acceptable levels. Water supply shall be filtered or treated to remove substances harmful to fish, where necessary. Water quality parameters shall at all times be within the acceptable range that sustains normal activity and physiology for a given species and stage of development. The water flow shall be appropriate to enable fish to swim correctly and to maintain normal behaviour. Fish shall be given an appropriate time for acclimatisation and adaptation to changes in water-quality conditions.

2 Oxygen, nitrogen compounds, pH, and salinity

Oxygen concentration shall be appropriate to the species and to the context in which the fish are held. Where necessary, supplementary aeration of tank water shall be provided. The concentrations of nitrogen compounds shall be kept low.

The pH level shall be adapted to the species and kept as stable as possible. The salinity shall be adapted to the requirements of the fish species and to the life stage of the fish. Changes in salinity shall take place gradually.

3 Temperature, lighting, and noise

Temperature shall be maintained within the optimal range for the fish species concerned and kept as stable as possible. Changes in temperature shall take place gradually. Fish shall be maintained on an appropriate photoperiod. Noise levels shall be kept to a minimum and, where possible, equipment causing noise or vibration, such as power generators or filtration systems, shall be separate from the fish-holding tanks.

4 Stocking density and environmental complexity

The stocking density of fish shall be based on the total needs of the fish in respect of environmental conditions, health and welfare. Fish shall have sufficient water volume for normal swimming, taking account of their size, age, health and feeding method. Fish shall be provided with an appropriate environmental enrichment, such as hiding places or bottom substrate, unless behavioural traits suggest none is required.

5 Feeding and handling

Fish shall be fed a diet suitable for the fish at an appropriate feeding rate and frequency. Particular attention shall be given to feeding of larval fish during any transition from live to artificial diets. Handling of fish shall be kept to a minimum.

Chapter 11: Amphibians

1 Accommodation specifications

1.1 Aquatic urodeles

All animals

Table 11-1

Body length (cm) measured from snout to vent	Minimum water surface area for one animal (cm^2)	Minimum water surface area for each additional animal in group (cm^2)	Minimum water depth (cm)
Up to 10	262.5	50	13
Over 10 to 15	525	110	13
Over 15 to 20	875	200	15
Over 20 to 30	1837.5	440	15
Over 30	3150	800	20

1.2 Aquatic anurans

All animals

The following standards apply to holding (i.e. husbandry) tanks but not to those tanks used for natural mating and super-ovulation for reasons of efficiency, as the latter procedures require smaller individual tanks. Space requirements are determined for adults in the indicated size categories; juveniles and tadpoles shall either be excluded or dimensions altered according to the scaling principle.

Table 11-2

Body length (cm) measured from snout to vent	Minimum water surface area for one animal (cm^2)	Minimum water surface area for each additional animal in group (cm^2)	Minimum water depth (cm)
Up to 6	160	40	6
Over 6 to 9	300	75	8
Over 9 to 12	600	150	10
Over 12	920	230	12.5

1.3 Semi-aquatic anurans

All animals

Table 11-3

Body length (cm) measured from snout to vent	Minimum enclosure size for one animal (cm^2)*	Minimum area for each additional animal in group (cm^2)	Minimum enclosure height (cm)**	Minimum water depth (cm)
Up to 5.0	1500	200	20	10
Over 5.0 to 7.5	3500	500	30	10
Over 7.5	4000	700	30	15

*One-third land division, two-thirds water division sufficient for animals to submerge.

** Measured from the surface of the land division up to the inner part of the top of the terrarium; furthermore, the height of the enclosures shall be adapted to the interior design.

1.4 Semi-terrestrial anurans

All animals

Table 11-4

Body length (cm) measured from snout to vent	Minimum enclosure size for one animal (cm^2)*	Minimum area for each additional animal in group (cm^2)	Minimum enclosure height (cm)**	Minimum water depth (cm)
Up to 5.0	1500	200	20	10
Over 5.0 to 7.5	3500	500	30	10
Over 7.5	4000	700	30	15

*Two-thirds land division, one-third water division sufficient for animals to submerge.

** Measured from the surface of the land division up to the inner part of the top of the terrarium; furthermore, the height of the enclosures shall be adapted to the interior design.

1.5 Arboreal anurans

All animals

Table 11-5

Body length (cm) measured from snout to vent	Minimum enclosure size for one animal (cm^2)*	Minimum area for each additional animal in group (cm^2)	Minimum enclosure height (cm)**
Up to 3.0	900	100	30
Over 3.0	1500	200	30

*Two-thirds land division, one-third water division sufficient for animals to submerge.

** Measured from the surface of the land division up to the inner part of the top of the terrarium; furthermore, the height of the enclosures shall be adapted to the interior design.

Chapter 12: Reptiles

1 Accommodation specifications

1.1 Aquatic chelonians

All animals

Table 12-1

Body length (cm)*	Minimum water surface area for one animal (cm^2)	Minimum water surface area for each additional animal in group (cm^2)	Minimum water depth (cm)
Up to 5	600	100	10
Over 5 to 10	1600	300	15
Over 10 to 15	3500	600	20
Over 15 to 20	6000	1200	30
Over 20 to 30	10000	2000	35
Over 30	20000	5000	40

* Measured in a straight line from the front edge to the back edge of the shell.

1.2 Terrestrial snakes

All animals

Table 12-2

Body length (cm) measured from snout to tail	Minimum floor area for one animal (cm^2)	Minimum area for each additional animal in group (cm^2)	Minimum enclosure height (cm)*
Up to 30	300	150	10
Over 30 to 40	400	200	12
Over 40 to 50	600	300	15
Over 50 to 75	1200	600	20
Over 75	2500	1200	28

* Measured from the surface of the land division up to the inner part of the top of the terrarium; furthermore, the height of the enclosure shall be adapted to the interior design.

Chapter 13: Cephalopods

There are currently no statutory minimum standards for the care and accommodation of cephalopods under ASPA. The previous CoP published in 2014 contained non-statutory standards for cephalopods based on leading practice standards at the time of publication; these standards are now available separately at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-housing-and-care-of-animals-bred-supplied-or-used-for-scientific-purposes for reference. Establishments should consult their AWERBs for guidance on applying current leading practice standards in line with the 3Rs.

Beyond the Code of Practice

Individuals using animals in science should be fully aware of the evidence which demonstrates the impact the care and accommodation of animals can have on both animal welfare and scientific outcomes. To fulfil the principles of the 3Rs, individuals should proactively seek out and seek to apply the most up to date leading practice on the care and accommodation of animals in science; for example, they may wish to consult research published by the National Centre for Replacement, Reduction, Refinement (NC3Rs). Within Establishments which conduct scientific procedures on animals, the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) has responsibilities for advising on the application of the 3Rs as well as reviewing operational processes for monitoring the welfare of animals, among other responsibilities. The Named Information Officer (NIO) is responsible for ensuring that those dealing with animals in the establishment have access to information that they need about the species held there and procedures being performed. For more information of the roles and responsibilities of the AWERB and the NIO please see the Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, Section 8 and Section 10.

In the previous version of the CoP published in 2014, a non-statutory section was included setting out leading practice standards for the care and accommodation of animals at the time of publication; this is now available separately on Gov.uk for reference[10]. The Government is reviewing its approach to leading practice to determine how best to drive understanding and uptake of continuous improvement and leading practice standards.

[10] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-housing-and-care-of-animals-bred-supplied-or-used-for-scientific-purposes

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