

Rigi Workshop January 2012

Swiss Federal Animal Protection Legislation

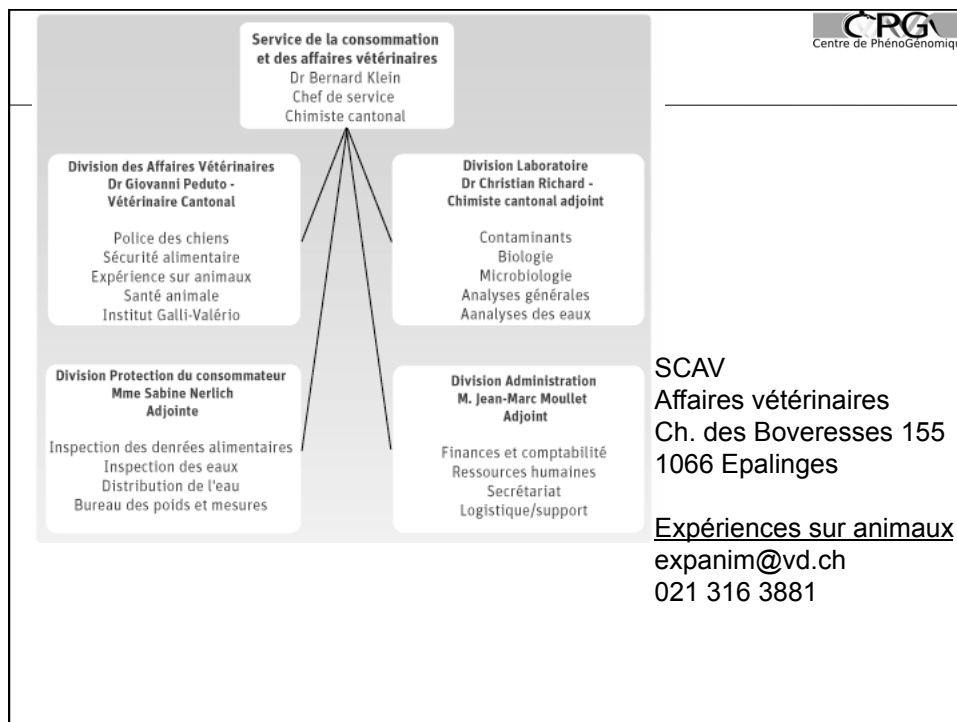


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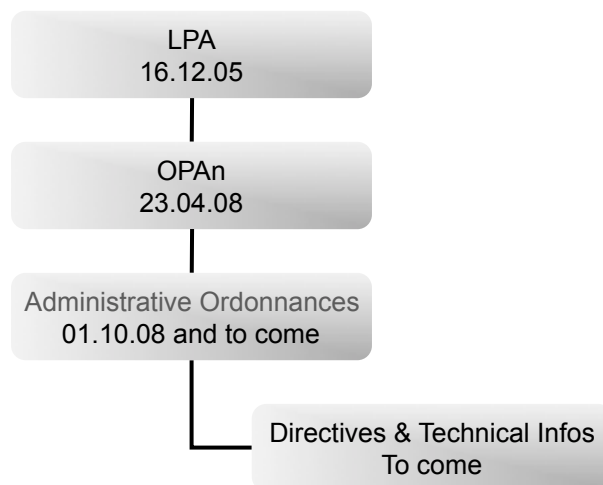
CRG
Centre de PhénoGénomique

History of Swiss federal animal protection legislation	
• 1973	Constitutional article, declaring that Animal welfare was a federal concern.
• 1978	Act on animal protection, introduced in 1981
• 1981	Animal protection ordinance
• 1991, 1997, 2001	Revisions
• 2005	Total revision act on animal protection
• 2005/06	Total revision animal protection ordinance
• 01.09.2008	Revised version of act on animal prot. and animal prot. ordinance come into force

History of Swiss federal animal protection legislation

- Act on animal protection: Definition of objectives
- Animal protection ordinance: Definition of rules of implementation
- New: „Administrative ordinance“ for specification of details (legally binding)

Art. 80 & 120 Swiss Constitution



Act on animal protection/animal protection ordinance: aims and principles

- New: Art. 1 act on animal prot. (2005): Protection of dignity and welfare of animals
- Responsibility of each person involved in the handling, keeping, dealing, breeding...of animals and using them in animal experiments

Act on animal protection/animal protection ordinance: aims and principles

- Prescribes rules of conduct between humans and animals
- Protection of the individual animal against unjustified exposure:
 - Animals shall be treated in the manner which best complies with their needs.
 - No one shall unjustifiably expose animals to pain, suffering, physical injury or fear
 - New: No one shall disdain the dignity of an animal

Act on animal protection/animal protection ordinance: aims and principles

Experiments with animals:

Knowingly expose animals to pain, suffering, physical injury or fear and disdain of dignity

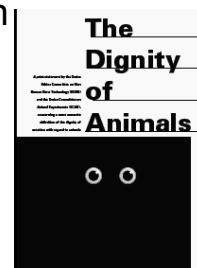
- Justification
- Reason, why experiments with animals have to be authorised



Act on animal protection/animal protection ordinance: aims and principles

Dignity of animals:

- Animals should be respected and protected for their own sake
- Disdain of dignity if the burden/ stress/exposure can not be justified by predominant interests



Act on animal protection/animal protection ordinance: aims and principles

Animal welfare:

- housing and nutrition appropriate: bodily function and behavior not disturbed, adaptivness not overtaxed



Act on animal protection/animal protection ordinance: aims and principles

Animal welfare:

- Species-appropriate behavior is possible
- Clinically healthy
- Pain, suffering, physical injury or fear is avoided

Act on animal protection/animal protection
ordinance: aims and principles

Scope:

- Vertebrates
- Cephalopoda, decapoda
- Mammals, birds and reptiles at last trimester before birth or hatching
- Larval stages of fishes and amphibians which show food intake

Act on animal protection/animal protection
ordinance: aims and principles

Definition of animal experiment:

Use of animals to:

- verify scientific hypotheses
- observe the effects of a particular procedure on the animal
- test of substances
- obtain or test cells, organs or bodily fluids (except for agricultural, diagnostic or therapeutic purposes)
- keep and multiply organisms foreign to the species
- serve in the teaching and education and further training

Fields of regulations concerning animal experiments: Contents

1. Limitation to the indispensable extent
2. Evaluation of interests
3. Animal facilities and origin of animals (requirements)
4. Human requirements
5. Carrying out experiments (requirements)
6. Procedure of authorisation
7. Supervision, inspections, notification

Article 17, Act on animal protection

Experiments with animals which cause them pain, suffering, injury, intensive fear or significantly disturb their general condition or disdain their dignity in an other way must be limited to the indispensable extent.

Criteria for the evaluation of the indispensable extent (1):

- Preservation or protection of the life and health of human beings and animals
- New insights into basic phenomena of life
- Protection of the environment
- Purpose of experiment cannot be reached without animal experiments (*Replacement*)
- Method: Most recent developments taken into account (*Refinement*)

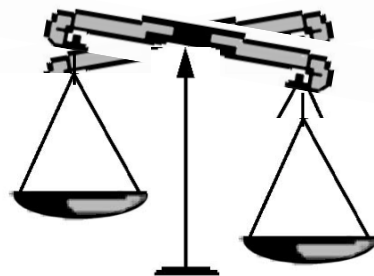
Criteria for the evaluation of the indispensable extent (2):

- Lowest possible number of animals (*Reduction*)
- Appropriate statistical methods for analysis of results
- Staging of different experimental parts

Art. 19 para. 4, Act on animal protection:

An animal experiment is forbidden, if compared with the expected additional knowledge or result, the animals are subject to excessive pain, suffering, injury or fear.

Human interests
in use



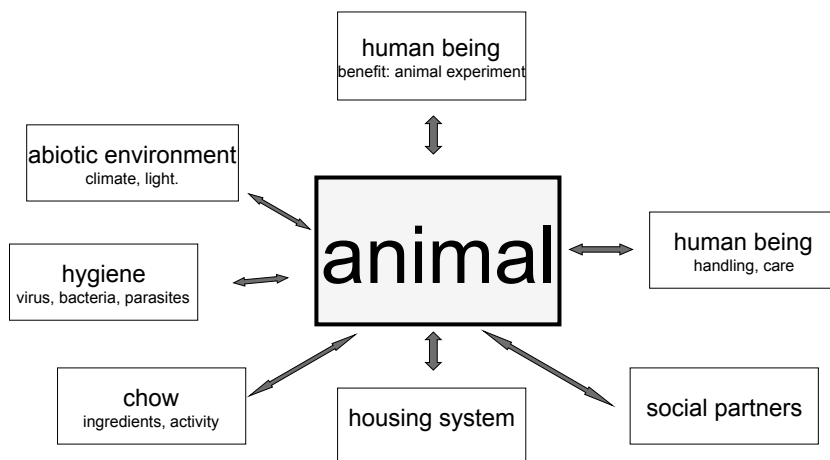
Animals interests
In protection

Severity
degree
0 to 3

replace
reduce
refine

Degree of severity of animal experiments:

- Severity 0: without constraint
 - Severity 1-3: with constraint
- New: all experiments with animals are subject to authorisation



Climate/Light:

- Daylight or light source with similar spectrum, fluorescent tubes should not flicker, intensity & photoperiod adapted
- Temperature, humidity, quality of water and air condition: adapted to the animals' needs
- Exceptions: with permission as short as possible

Size of cages and enclosures:



Housing density Mice & Rats (Annex 3)

Tableau 1 Petits rongeurs (non utilisés pour l'élevage): souris, rat, hamster, gerbille de Mongol
Les valeurs concernent des enclos ou des locaux ventilés. Sans ventilation, les valeurs de l'annexe 2 sont applicables

Espèces animales, poids	Surface minimale du sol de la cage cm ²	Surface au sol par animal cm ²	Hauteur cm
Souris <i>Mus musculus</i>			
< 20 g	330	60	12
20 - 30 g	330	80	12
> 30 g	330	100	12
Rat <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>			
< 200 g	800	200	18
200 - 300 g	800	250	18
300 - 400 g	800	350	18
400 - 600 g	1500	450	20
> 600 g	1500	600	20

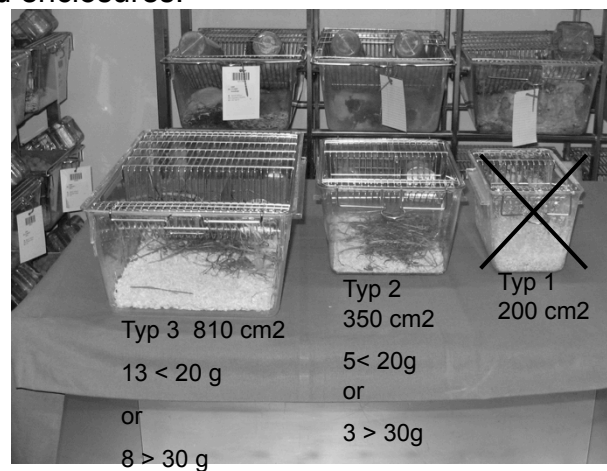
Mouse & Rat : 1, 3, 5, 6

- 1) Solid floor with bedding
- 3) Gnawing (food pellets)
- 5) Nesting material
- 6) Climbing (grid ceiling)

Socially living species
(rats & mice) are to be kept
together

Size of cages and enclosures:

01.09.2008:
(e.g.mice)



Mice housing

Type	LxWxH	Surface	Max nb animals			
			< 20g	20 - 30 g	> 30 g	Breeding
I	obsolete	200				
II	267x207x140	370	6	4	3	No breeding
II long	365x207x140	530	8	6	5	1m + 2f + pups > weaning
500 cm2	405x205x185	501	8	6	5	1m + 2f + pups > weaning
III	425x266x155	820	13	10	8	1m + 2f + pups > after weaning

Rat housing

Type	LxWxH	Surface	Max nb animals					Breeding
			< 200g	200 - 300g	300 - 400g	400 - 600g	> 600g	
III	425x266x 155	820						
III H	425x266x185	820	4	3	2			1f <400g + pups > weaning
900 cm2	405x355x230	904	4	3	2			1f <400g + pups > weaning
IV	595x380x200	1820	9	7	5	4	4	1m + 2f <400g + pups > weaning or 1f >400g + pups > weaning

Origin of animals:

- Authorised breeders/traders
- Animals caught in the wild may be used for experiments, if they belong to a species which is difficult to breed in sufficient numbers
- Domestic animals: may be used, except cats, dogs, rabbits (have to come from an auth. animal house)
- Primates: no animals caught in the wild

Before 2008

Lab Animal Breeding	Accred.	
Animal Expt. incl. Production GMAs	Animal experimentation Authorisation	Training / Cont. education of personal

After 2008

Animal Facilities incl. GMAs & Mutants	Training / Cont. education of personal	Animal Facilities Authorisation
Animal Expt. (excl. Production GMAs)	Training / Cont. education of personal	Animal experimentation Authorisation

Responsibilities:

- Director of animal experimentation (scientific institute or laboratory director, divisional head)
- Study director
- Persons carrying out experiments with animals (certified animal care taker with diploma)

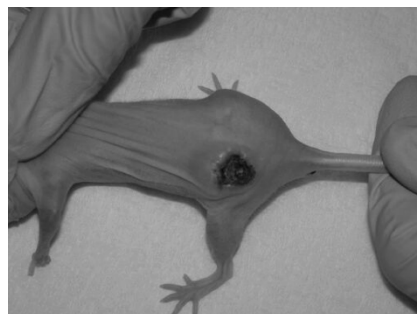
Responsibilities of Experimenters:

- carrying out experiments with animals
- is responsible of the welfare of the animals during the experiments
- knows the content of the authorisation under which the experiments are performed

Training of personnel:

- Persons carrying out experiments with animals: 40 h (theoretical knowledge and practical training)
- Study director: 80 h expert training (+ 3 years practical experience)
- Continuing training: 4 days within 4 years for all experimenters

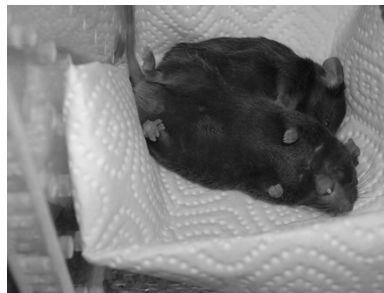
- Pain, suffering, injury or fear unavoidable?



- Use of lower types of animals



- Obligation of general or local anaesthetic (including analgesia)



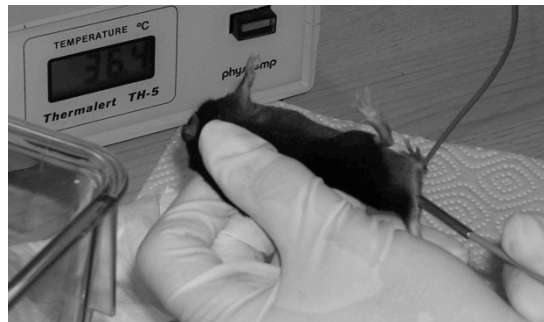
- Animals must be carefully accustomed to the conditions of the experiment



- Termination criteria (1):

Before experiment starts: Definition of symptoms, events which lead to the immediate termination of the experiment (animal maybe euthanised)

•Check of the condition/health status:



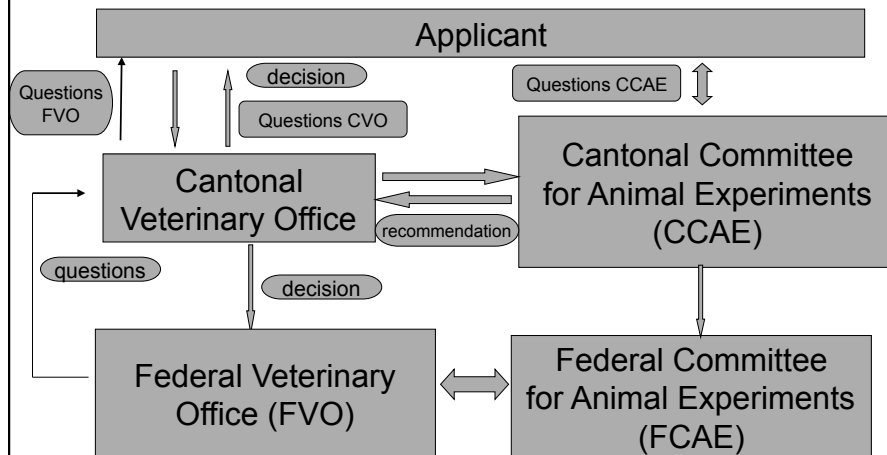
- Difficult manipulations: only personnel with special training
- No second use after experiments with severe (short-term) or moderate (intermediate- and long-term) pain, suffering, distress or fear
- Manipulations which cause stress/euthanasia: not in the same room where animals are kept
- Allowed in housing rooms: Identification, basic biological samples, injections or gavage

Documentation of animal experiments:

- Date of start and end of experiment
- Species, number, sex, origin and identification
- Identification of experimental groups
- Manipulations, anaesthesia, analgesia, analysis of results
- Frequency of monitoring of animals, documentation of clinical symptoms and premature termination of experiment
- Degree of severity
- Undesirable events


- Intention of conducting animal experiments:
 - ➔ apply for a licence at the cantonal authority.
(Form A)
- Submission of application: E-Tierversuche

Procedure of authorisation



- Issued to the name of the director of animal experimentation (scientific head of institute or laboratory, divisional head)
- Precise aim!
- Limited to max. 3 years
- Exceptions from the regulations specified in authorisation
- The authorisation may comprise conditions and requirements

Conditions for authorisation (1):

- Experiment does not exceed the indispensable extent
- Evaluation of interest legitimates the experiment 
- Purpose is not forbidden (Art. 138 Animal Prot. Ord.)
- Definition of termination criteria

Conditions for authorisation (2):

- Requirements on breeding and generation of mutants fulfilled
- Requirements on animal facility and origin of animals fulfilled
- Requirements on performance of experiments fulfilled
- Human requirements fulfilled
- Responsibility for animal facility arranged

Practical aspects (3):

- New application and renewal of authorisation
- What to do if protocol changes?
 - Apply for a complement in case of change of methodology, number of animals, or extension of validity
 - Eventually as a letter („avenant“)
- Collaboration across „Cantons“ needs an authorisation
 - If possible incorporate in original request
 - Otherwise apply a complement to your Office which forwards to concerned office

Supervision, Inspections and Notification

- Cantonal Authority, Cantonal Committee for Animal Experiments, >20% of running authorisations checked
- Animal husbandry controlled at least once a year
- Animal facility (E-Tierversuche):
 - mouse lines with negative phenotype within 2 weeks
 - number of animals for every species at the end of february
- Animal experiments: Form C (interim report, final report (E-Tierversuche):
 - the activities in the past calendar year, at the end of february (new);
 - within two months (new) after termination date

Informations to details concerning animal experimentation

- Animal experimentation forms but cantonal offices provide them
- Information and guidelines concerning animal experimentation and alternatives
- Training and ongoing education
- Link

www.bvet.admin.ch/
under Protection des
animaux > Expériences
sur animaux



Summary

- Limitation to the indispensable extent requires evaluation of interests
- Humane termination criteria
- Measures for constraint reduction



Thank you very much for
your attention