Animal welfare body in action

NEW LABORATORY ANIMAL LEGISLATION
12.11.2014 UNIVERSITY OF OULU
SAKARI LAAKSONEN
Composition

- **KEKS Director** Hanna-Marja Voipio
- **Veterinarian** Sakari Laaksonen
- **Animal unit chief technicians**
  - Barrier: Tanja Sankala
  - Research unit: Tuula Stranius
- **Permanent researcher members**
  - Ritva Heljasvaara
  - Reetta Vuolteenaho
- **Project-wise researcher / technician members**
Obligations according to the law

- To advise, inform and educate in matters related to animal welfare and 3 Rs
- To review and develop the animal welfare monitoring, reporting and follow-up processes
- To follow the severity of procedures performed on animals, and the assessment of severity
- To make a plan of setting free or rehoming animals after their use in experimental procedures
- AWB operation must be documented.
What we already had before…

- Scrutinizing the project licence applications beforehand together with the researcher → 3R and welfare guidance
- Welfare monitoring in practice:
  - Daily check-up by animal technicians → recording in Provet
  - Technicians and researchers during experiments: follow-up form, e.g. after surgery
  - Veterinarian’s rounds, and check-ups on demand
- Reporting and follow-up of welfare problems in Provet → project-specific documentation
- Annual training days for the KEKS staff
What’s new?

- Project commencement meetings with study groups
- Data compilation in Provet → e.g. recording of the actual severity class for every animal
- Seminars, 3R-theme days, other training
- Meetings of the AWB at least four times a year → review of the prior and planning of the upcoming activities
- Rehoming of animals: extremely rare; case-specific handling by the veterinarian
Project commencement meetings

- Veterinarian
- Animal unit manager(s)
- Technician(s)
- Project licence holder
- Person responsible for the animal work
- People participating work with live animals
- The permanent researcher members of AWB do not participate meetings of other study groups.
Project commencement meetings

- Who will work with animals and what is their proficiency?
- Who is responsible for the guidance and proficiency of new researchers?
- What will be done to the animals? What are the possible welfare problems and how are they minimized? What are the humane end points?
- Animal care and follow-up involved in the procedures
- Co-operation between KEKS staff and the study group
- Agreement of follow-up / termination meeting
- Guidance of researchers in the use of Provet
- Other considerations and feedback
Our experience so far

- Commencement meetings round up everybody involved; the key persons get to know each other; we get to know better what will happen and when; co-operation becomes more flowing; there are nearly always some things to adjust in the study plan.

- Same things have been done before, but now it is more rigorous and documented

- The meetings give an opportunity for feedback and discussion ➔ general quality work
Thanks for your enthusiasm!