

ADAS Policy on the Welfare of Animals



Statutory Guidance and Responsibilities for Welfare

Statutory guidance is provided within The Animal Welfare Act 2006 and specifically for farmed animals the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulation 2007 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulation 2007. The latter two generic regulations are augmented by species-specific requirements and other secondary regulations, which are available on the DEFRA website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-recommendations-for-the-welfare-of-livestock

Additional useful information is also provided in:

Ethics, Morality and Animal Biotechnology. R. Straughan, BBSRC. 1999

All staff have responsibility to comply with procedures aimed at ensuring legislative compliance and animal well-being, and to report promptly to Management any circumstances believed detrimental to welfare. On joining the Company, staff involved in the care of animals will be made aware of their responsibilities regarding welfare; additional specific training will be provided whenever necessary.

At each ADAS research centres, the Site Manager has overall responsibility for decisions affecting animal welfare including the husbandry systems operated and compliance with legal requirements. The Establishment Licence holder has overall responsibility for the care and welfare of animals covered by Home Office Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, as amended 2010/63/EU (the Act).

For research work, the Study Director will ensure that detailed requirements within the protocol do not compromise animal welfare. Normally, a study will only go ahead if there is no conflict with animal welfare. Any concerns must be discussed with Management and where appropriate with named individuals under the Home Office Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, as amended 2010/63/EU.

The ADAS policy ensures full compliance with all relevant legislation.

Ethical Review

All ADAS research studies involving animals are ethically reviewed before commencement. Additionally, formal **Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)** meetings are held at least annually at all locations where livestock studies are undertaken. All studies done by ADAS involving animals, whether on ADAS owned research sites or on commercial farms, are subject to AWERB review.

Proposals for contentious and highly sensitive research and consultancy projects, which cannot be readily sanctioned by the local AWERB committee, are referred to the ADAS Ethics Committee. The ADAS Ethics Committee reports to the ADAS Board via the ADAS Executive.

For animals other than those coming within the 'the Act', where additional more stringent constraints and parameters apply, the following husbandry conditions apply, as a minimum, to all animals in ADAS' care.

Suitable Nutrition

All animals will have ready access to a suitable supply of drinking water and a diet, which at least maintains the animals in normal health and vigour, and is appropriate to their productive state.

Suitable Housing, Handling and Transport

Appropriate facilities will be provided to protect animals from extreme effects of the weather. This may involve the exclusion of rain, wind or direct sunlight and for fish provide water of adequate quality. All animal accommodation will be designed appropriate to the species and maintained to ensure adequate lighting, ventilation/aeration and temperature control, and to provide appropriate drinking, feeding and resting facilities.

Walls, floor surfaces and any fitments will be designed to minimise physical injuries.

All ADAS locations will be equipped with handling facilities designed for the classes of stock being kept, and isolation pens for sick and injured animals.

Only competent and experienced specialist animal hauliers will be employed to transport animals to and from ADAS locations.

Social Interaction

Attention will be given to providing some social contact for isolated animals. When groups of animals are to be formed, careful thought will be given to minimising stress by, in particular, matching sizes and types of animal and forming appropriate group sizes.

Appropriate Staffing

Animal care and good husbandry are key factors in promoting good animal welfare. ADAS will employ competent and diligent staff who are able to recognise health disorders or signs of stress amongst the animals within their care and take appropriate action. New staff will be carefully monitored and assessed on their awareness of animal welfare issues and suitable training provided if necessary.

Regular Inspection

All animals will be checked routinely for any health or welfare problems:

- Housed animals at least once a day.
- Animals outside will normally be checked at least once a day, with the exception of hill stock, where checks may sometimes be less frequent.

Identification and Records

All stock, other than poultry and fish, will be individually identified. Detailed records will be maintained of any health problems and prophylactic or veterinary treatments given to individual animals, as well as diet and production parameters. For poultry and fish, records will be maintained on a group basis.

Veterinary Guidance

Where there is doubt concerning an animal health and/or welfare issue, the view of a veterinary surgeon will be sought. Should such consultation result in conflicting views, the guidance provided by the veterinary surgeon will always take precedence.



Ian Strudwick
Managing Director
RSK ADAS Limited

PS6 Edition: 13
December 2016