

Republic of Latvia

Cabinet

Regulation No. 122

Adopted 10 March 2015

By-laws of the Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes

*Issued pursuant to
Section 26.³, Paragraph two of the Animal Protection Law*

1. The Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes (hereinafter – the Committee) is a consultative body, the objective of which is to replace, reduce, and improve the use of animals used for scientific purposes (hereinafter – experimental animals) in experimental projects, as well as to promote improvement of the conditions for the accommodation and care of animals.

2. In order to carry out the functions laid down in the Animal Protection Law the Committee shall perform the following tasks:

2.1. consult the competent authorities and animal welfare bodies on the opportunities to replace, reduce, and improve the use of experimental animals in experimental projects, as well as on improvement of the conditions for the accommodation and care of animals;

2.2. consult the competent authorities and animal welfare bodies on the topical issues of the accommodation and care of animals;

2.3. inform and consult the competent authorities and animal welfare bodies on alternative testing strategies and their availability;

2.4. ensure a link and information flow between animal welfare bodies, competent authorities, national contact points of the Member States, and other competent authorities of the European Union in the relevant field;

2.5. provide recommendations to animal welfare bodies on the implementation of best practices in accommodation and care of experimental animals;

2.6. establish and maintain a network for exchange of information in order to ensure the performance of the tasks referred to Sub-paragraphs 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 of this Regulation.

3. Upon considering the topical issues, the Committee may invite competent scientists, representatives of the pharmaceutical and chemical industry, as well as representatives of services or other competent authorities for participation in a meeting.

4. The Committee shall consist of:

4.1. representatives of the State scientific institute “Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR”” (hereinafter – the “BIOR” Institute), one of whom shall be the head of the Committee;

4.2. representatives of the scientific institutions that use experimental animals in scientific research, as well as for diagnostic or educational purposes;

4.3. representatives of associations and foundations related to the field of animal protection and welfare.

5. The scientific institutions that use experimental animals in scientific research, as well as for diagnostic or educational purposes shall delegate at least one representative for work in the Committee, who may concurrently be a representative of an animal welfare body, and who meets the following criteria:

5.1. during the last five years has supplemented his or her theoretical and practical knowledge in the field related to the use of experimental animals;

5.2. has acquired higher education in veterinary medicine, biology, medicine, pharmacy, or chemistry;

5.3. during at least the last five years has been engaged in scientific research, in which experimental animals are used.

6. Representatives of associations and foundations related to the field of animal protection and welfare wishing to apply for work in the Committee, shall comply with the following criteria:

6.1. animal protection is defined as the operational objective in the statutes of the relevant association or foundation;

6.2. participation in at least one international animal protection organisation;

6.3. experience in the field of protection of experimental animals;

6.4. at least three years of experience in the field of animal protection.

7. A scientific institutions that uses experimental animals in scientific research, as well as for diagnostic or educational purposes shall submit a submission to the “BIOR” Institute. Information regarding the representative delegated for work in the Committee shall be indicated in the submission, and documents confirming his or her compliance with the criteria laid down in Paragraph 5 of this Regulation shall be appended thereto.

8. An association and foundation related to the field of animal protection and welfare wishing to apply for work in the Committee, shall submit a report to the “BIOR” Institute on its activities in the field of experimental animals in the last three years, as well as a submission. The following shall be indicated in the submission:

8.1. information confirming compliance with the criteria referred to in Paragraph 6 of this Regulation;

8.2. information regarding the representative delegated for work in the Committee, appending by a proof that the delegated representative has knowledge and experience in matters related to reduction, replacement, and improvement of the use of experimental animals in experimental projects, as well as experience in protection of experimental animals, acquired during the last three years.

9. Meetings of the Committee shall be open. Meetings of the Committee shall be closed, if the information to be considered is confidential.

10. Members of the Committee shall respect the confidentiality of the information acquired in work of the Committee.

11. Scientific institutions that use experimental animals in scientific research, as well as for diagnostic or educational purposes, and associations and foundations related to the field of animal protection and welfare shall, by 15 April 2015, submit the documents referred to in Paragraph 7 or 8 of this Regulation accordingly to the “BIOR” Institute.

Informative Reference to the European Union Directive

This Regulation contains legal norms arising from Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

Prime Minister

Laimdota Straujuma

Minister for Agriculture

Jānis Dūklavs