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**FSVO Ordinance
on Laboratory Animal Husbandry,
the Production of Genetically Modified Animals
and Methods of Animal Experimentation
(Animal Experimentation Ordinance)**

of 12 April 2010 (Status as of 1 May 2010)

*The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO)*¹,
on the basis of Articles 124 paragraph 2, 136 paragraph 2, 142 paragraph 4 and 209
paragraph 1 of the Animal Welfare Ordinance of 23 April 2008² (AWO),
ordains:

Section 1 Scope

Art. 1

This Ordinance contains regulations on:

- a. the husbandry of laboratory animals;
- b. the production, breeding and husbandry of genetically modified laboratory animals and mutants that have a clinical pathological phenotype;
- c. the registration and documentation of strain and reporting procedures;
- d. the definition of the degrees of severity;
- e. intercantonal animal experiments;
- f. applications and reports concerning laboratory animal facilities and animal experiments.

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- ¹ The name of this administrative unit was modified on 1 Jan. 2014 pursuant to Art. 16 para. 3 of the Publications Ordinance of 17 Nov. 2004 (SR 170.512.1). This change has been made throughout the text.
- ² SR 455.1

Section 2 Husbandry of Laboratory Animals**Art. 2 Monitoring of laboratory animals**

(Art. 121 AWO)

¹ Technical installations such as ventilation and automatic drinking systems shall be fitted with an alarm device if the failure or a malfunction of these systems can cause harm to the animals.

² The condition of the animals' housing environment, especially bedding, feed and water, and also the well-being of the animals shall be checked daily.

³ The well-being of small rodents must be checked when they are transferred to clean cages. The animals must also be visually inspected at least three times a week. At weekends, the condition of the housing environment and the well-being of the animals need not be checked if it can be shown that the animals are not adversely affected by this procedure.

⁴ Small rodents are the animals listed in Annex 3 Table 1 AWO.

⁵ If an animal shows signs of any strain, this should be indicated on the enclosure or cage.

⁶ The frequency of checks as specified in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be increased in accordance with the strain observed.

⁷ A record shall be kept of the checks.

Art. 3 Individual housing of incompatible animals

(Art. 119 para. 2 AWO)

A record shall be kept of the beginning and end of individual housing for incompatible animals and of special events arising during such housing.

Art. 4 Run for dogs

(Art. 71 para. 2 AWO)

The run for dogs may be in an outdoor enclosure.

Art. 5 Marking of small rodents

(Art. 120 AWO)

¹ Invasive methods such as tattoos, microchips, ear notches or amputation of toe tips may be used for marking small rodents intended for breeding.

² For marking small rodents not intended for breeding, the use of invasive methods must be justified in the context of the specific experiment.

³ Marking with ear tags is not permitted.

⁴ If marking is indispensable for genotyping, the marking and biopsy must be combined.

Art. 6 Measures and procedures in animal rooms
(Art. 135 para. 9 AWO)

The following measures and procedures may be performed in rooms where animals are kept:

- a. marking procedures;
- b. administration of substances or food, such as brief injections or gavage;
- c. taking of samples such as blood, hair, urine and saliva.

Art. 7 Documentation
(Art. 114 AWO)

¹ The allocation and instruction of personnel taking care of laboratory animals must be recorded in a comprehensible manner.

² In the animal rooms, it must be clearly indicated who is responsible for compliance with animal welfare regulations for each animal.

³ Personnel must have access at all times to the documentation on strain and on the criteria for euthanasia.

Art. 8 Qualification of animal caretakers
(Art. 116 AWO)

At least one third of personnel in animal caretaker positions must hold a qualification as animal attendant as specified in Article 195 AWO.

Section 3

Production, Breeding and Housing of Genetically Modified Laboratory Animals and Mutants that have a Clinical Pathological Phenotype

Art. 9 Approved methods for producing genetically modified animals
(Art. 142 para. 4 AWO)

¹ The approved methods for producing genetically modified animals are listed in Annex 1.

² A method may be approved if it is in widespread practical use and best ensures the well-being of the animals compared with other methods. Both the implementation of the procedures and measures and the success rate and number of surplus animals must be taken into account.

³ The approved methods shall be used in accordance with a standard protocol in a manner that best ensures the well-being of the animals.

⁴ The laboratory animal facility shall keep a record of the success rate in the use of the approved methods for the attention of the cantonal authorities. If the success rate is unsatisfactory, the laboratory animal facility must take action to improve it.

Art. 10 Genotyping

(Art. 120 para. 1 and 123 AWO)

¹ The following methods and combinations thereof are approved for genotyping in production and breeding of genetically modified animals:

- a. non-invasive methods such as the investigation of faeces or saliva;
- b. methods combined with the marking of animals;
- c. blood sampling.

² Tail biopsies are only permitted in particular cases justified by the experiment in question. Not more than 5 mm of the tail may be removed.

³ In small rodents the following methods for combined genotyping and marking are permitted:

- a. amputation of the distal phalanx of a toe in the first 12 days after birth; not more than two toe tips per animal may be amputated;
- b. identification by means of ear perforation or notching after weaning.

Art. 11 Phenotyping

(Art. 124 AWO)

In the production and breeding of animal lines or strains, the killing of animals for anatomical or pathological purposes and investigations such as behavioural studies with mild strain or blood sampling are permitted provided they serve to characterise the animal lines and strains. The studies shall be performed in a manner that best ensures the well-being of the animals.

Section 4
Record and Documentation of Strain and Reporting Procedures**Art. 12** Basic principles of recording strain in small rodents

(Art. 124 AWO)

¹ The recording of strain in small rodents must be documented. The following data must be entered:

- a. results of inspections in accordance with Annex 4;
- b. time and date of inspections and person carrying out inspections.

² The frequency of inspections and the traits to be observed shall be constantly adjusted based on new findings from monitoring or from animal experiments.

³ Measures for reducing strain and criteria for euthanasia must be implemented immediately. The implementation must be documented.

Art. 13 Recording strain in small rodents

(Art. 124 AWO)

¹ The head of the laboratory animal facility is responsible for recording strain. In particular, he or she shall ensure that:

- a. the persons involved in monitoring genetically modified lines or lines that have a clinical pathological phenotype:
 1. have sufficient time to carry out and document the inspection in a manner that best ensures the welfare of the animals,
 2. maintain state-of-the-art knowledge in the field of recording strain,
 3. are immediately informed about new findings on clinical signs of strain in the lines to be assessed;
- b. the basic principles stated in Article 12 are adhered to.

² The list of traits to be checked in accordance with Annex 4 shall be supplemented for each line with traits that can be expected or not excluded on the basis of the genetic modification.

³ Strain records and reproduction and mortality data shall be constantly evaluated and compared with existing data on animals with the same genetic background.

Art. 14 Recording strain in new or insufficiently characterised lines of small rodents

(Art. 124 AWO)

¹ New or insufficiently characterised lines of genetically modified small rodents shall be inspected for traits in accordance with Annex 4 while changing cages and observed at least once in between cage changes.

² Newborn animals shall be inspected for traits in accordance with Annex 4 within the first five days and thereafter checked and observed at intervals as defined in paragraph 1 until they are weaned.

³ During the first three generations, all animals shall be checked and observed as stipulated in paragraphs 1 and 2.

⁴ If a total of 100 animals from at least three generations have been checked and no signs of strain have been detected, the line is deemed to be free of clinical pathological phenotype.

Art. 15 Recording strain in small rodent lines likely to have a clinical pathological phenotype

(Art. 124 AWO)

¹ A small rodent line is deemed likely to have a clinical pathological phenotype if:

- a. evidence of genetically related strain is found in several animals; or
- b. analysis of the data shows increased mortality or reproduction problems.

² In lines likely to have a clinical pathological phenotype, Article 14 applies to recording strain.