rijksuniversiteit groningen

Animal testing:

2016 annual report

The University of Groningen and the University Medical Centre Groningen (UMCG) employ staff members who are involved in research and education involving the use of animals. The University of Groningen and the UMCG are committed to the 3Rs principle (replacement, reduction and refinement) and to the principle of transparency. This annual report provides an overview of the research and education involving animals at the University of Groningen and the UMCG. It also provides information on the 3Rs and on the measures taken to improve the quality of the research and education involving animals. The annual report is available for the public on www.rug.nl and www.umcg.nl.

Animal research legislation: the revised law

The protection of laboratory animals and farm animals is effectively regulated in Dutch legislation. The Dutch Government's policy is based on the 3Rs principle. The Dutch legislation implements the European Directive 2010/63/EU. The aims of the revised legislation are to improve the protection of laboratory animals, to reduce the number of laboratory animals in the number of animal experiments involved in the research, and to improve the quality of the research. The revised legislation also requires more transparency about the use of laboratory animals and farm animals and about the number of animal experiments. Many new requirements have also been introduced. There are no other options.

Why has the Animal Experiments Act been revised?

Research involving animals is subject to the Dutch Act on Animal Experiments. The Act implements the European Directive 2010/63/EU. The revised Act, which was adopted in December 2014, has been in force since 1 January 2015. The revised Act has been implemented in the Dutch Animal Experiments Act and in the Decree on Animal Experiments. The revised legislation has been implemented in the University of Groningen's policy and in the UMCG's policy. The revised legislation has been implemented in the University of Groningen's and the UMCG's animal experiment licences and with the requirements of the Dutch Central Authority for Scientific Research on Animals (CCD).

What has changed in practice?

The revised law contains a number of new requirements. The University of Groningen and the UMCG have implemented the new requirements in their policy and in their procedures. The University of Groningen and the UMCG have also implemented the new requirements in their animal experiment licences and with the requirements of the Dutch Central Authority for Scientific Research on Animals (CCD). The most important changes are the following:

- Mandatory ethical review for the granting of licences for animal experiments
- Fundamental and applied research on the functioning of the brain, the central nervous system and behaviour, and research into neurological and psychological disorders, can no longer be carried out on primates
- Primates, dogs and cats may only be used in research if they have been obtained from specialised breeders
- Primates, dogs and cats may only be used in research if they have been obtained and bred in accordance with the requirements of the revised law
- Animals