The PREPARE guidelines: for better Science

Adrian Smith
adrian.smith@norecopa.no
@adrian_3r

norecopa.no/290323

https://norecopa.no

"...better science?"

- valid data (a true treatment effect)
- reproducible and translatable experiments
- best possible animal welfare
- health & safety (of animals and people)
- a culture of care in the research group
- communication of best practice to others

colourbox.com

nature International weekly journal of science

norecopa

Scientists are becoming increasingly concerned about the validity of animal experiments

NATURE | NEWS

Swiss survey highlights potential flaws in animal studies

Poor experimental design and statistical analysis could contribute to widespread problems in reproducing preclinical animal experiments

Pain management in pigs undergoing experimental surgery; a literature review (2012–4)

FREE

A. G. Bradbury, M. Eddleston, R. E. Clutton

Br J Anaesth (2016) 116 (1): 37-45. **DOI:** https://doi.org/10.1093/bja/aev301
Published: 03 October 2015

selection criteria. Most articles (193/233, 83%) described use of drugs with analgesic properties, but only 87/233 (37%) described postoperative analgesia. No article provided justification for the analgesic chosen, despite the lack of guidelines for analgesia in porcine surgical models and the lack of formal studies on this subject. Postoperative pain assessment was reported in only 23/233 (10%) articles. It was found that the reporting of postoperative pain management in the studies was remarkably low, reflecting either under-reporting or under-use. Analgesic description, when given, was frequently too limited to enable reproducibility. Development of a

nature International weekly journal of science

NATURE | NEWS FEATURE

1,500 scientists lift the lid on reproducibility

Survey sheds light on the 'crisis' rocking research.

Monya Baker

25 May 2016 | Corrected: 28 July 2016

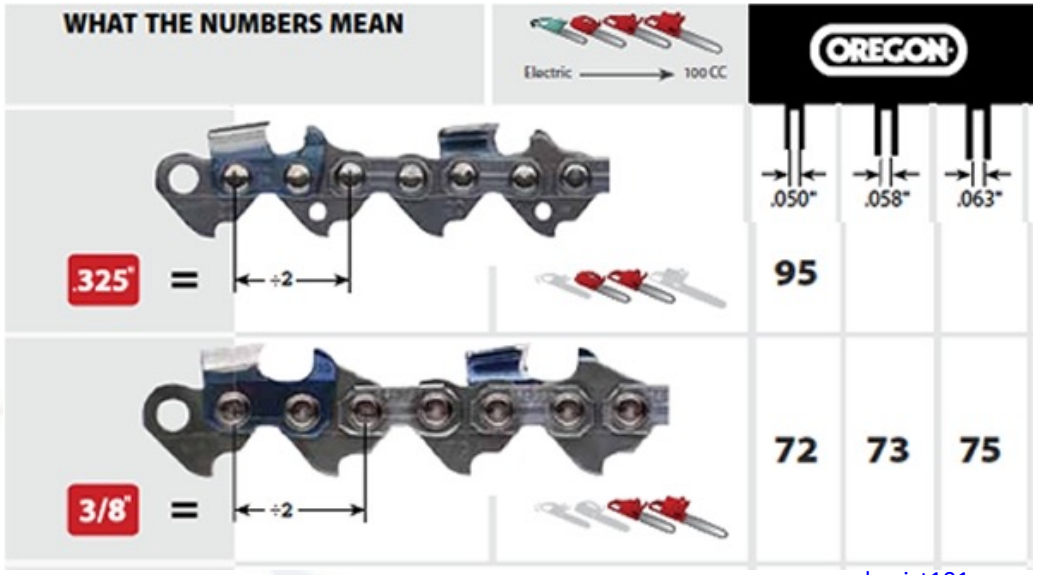
More than 70% of researchers have tried and failed to reproduce another scientist's experiments, and more than half have failed to reproduce their own experiments. Those are some of the telling figures that emerged from *Nature*'s survey of 1,576 researchers who took a brief online questionnaire on reproducibility in research.

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

The easy parts of design and reporting:



arborist101.com

- Chainsaw
  - Blade characteristics
  - Sparkplug type
  - Petrol/oil mixture
  - Service history
- Angle of cut in tree
- Length of tree logs

norecopa

Critical issues behind the scenes that may not get reported:

- Experience of the workers
- Inspection for signs of rot and to decide felling direction
- Additional equipment (winch, chains, straps, wedges)
- Routines and equipment for sharpening the chain
- Clearing-up and transport of logs
- Health and safety precautions – clothing, onlookers
- **Division of labour and costs**

Starts long before the actual work.

Dagbladet.no Publisert fredag 23.04.2010 kl. 18:26

Solveig (38) forsket på kreft, ble selv uhelbredelig syk

Slår alarm om arbeidsforholdene på Radiumhospitalet. Sykehuset innrømmer rutinesvikt.


ASLE HANSEN
ash@dagbladet.no


DIANA BADI
dba@dagbladet.no

HELSEFARLIG ARBEIDSMILJØ: Solveig Garman-Vik (38) har fått diagnosen akutt myelogen leukemi (AML) etter å ha jobbet med kreftforskning på Radiumhospitalet i elleve år. Her får hun en klem av sykepleier Elisabeth A. Saghaug før hun går hjem for helgen. Få med hvor fantastiske alle her på Lovisenberg er mot meg, sier Solveig. Foto: LARS EIVIND BONES/DAGBLADET

How do others achieve reproducibility?

https://www.meonuk.com/runway-markings-explained

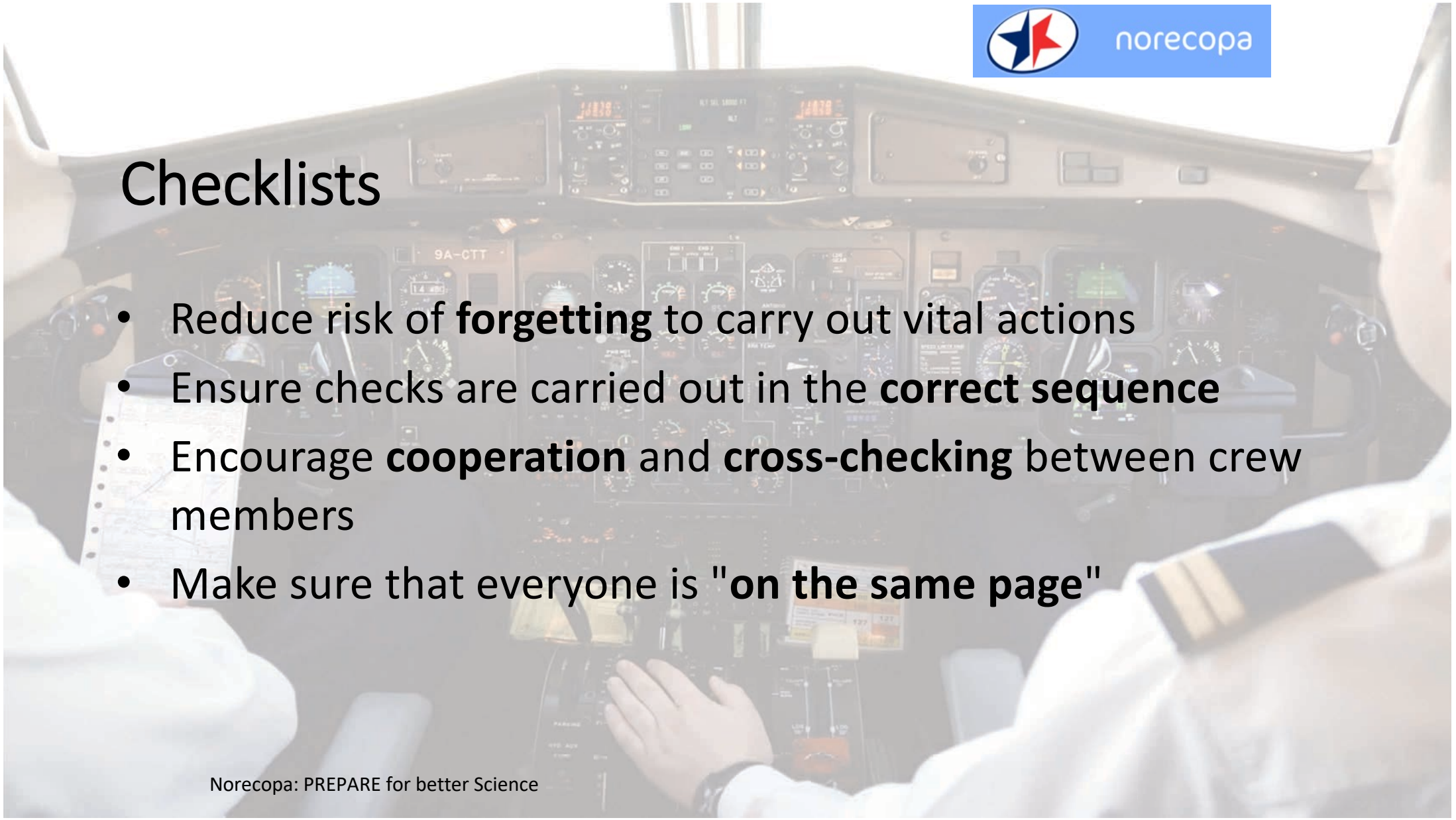
…and precision in a variable environment?

travelandleisure.com/airlines-airports/what-happens-when-planes-hit-birds

15.25.33	-01.38	Kaptein	Cockpit	V one, rotate
15.25.38	-01.33	Kaptein	Cockpit	positive rate
15.25.39	-01.32	Styrmann	Cockpit	Gear up please
15.25.39	-01.32	Kaptein	Cockpit	Gear up
15.26.37	-00.34	Kaptein	Cockpit	Uh what a view of the Hudson today
15.26.42	-00.29	Styrmann	Cockpit	Yeah
15.27.07	-00.04	Kaptein	Cockpit	After takeoff checklist complete
15.27.10	-00.01	Kaptein	Cockpit	Birds
15.27.11	-00.00	Styrmann	Cockpit	Whoa
15.27.11	00.00			
15.27.12	+00.01	Kaptein	Cockpit	Oh ---
15.27.13	+00.02	Styrmann	Cockpit	Oh yeah
15.27.14	+00.03	Styrmann	Cockpit	Uh oh
15.27.15	+00.04	Kaptein	Cockpit	We got one rol... both of 'em rolling back
15.27.18	+00.07	Kaptein	Cockpit	Ignition, start
15.27.21	+00.10	Kaptein	Cockpit	I'm starting the APU
15.27.23	+00.12	Kaptein	Cockpit	My aircraft
15.27.24	+00.13	Styrmann	Cockpit	Your aircraft
15.27.28	+00.17	Kaptein	Cockpit	Get the QRH... loss of thrust on both engines
15.27.32	+00.21	Kaptein	Radio	Mayday mayday mayday. Uh this is Cactus fifteen thirty [sic] nine, hit birds. We've lost thrust on both engines. We're turning back towards LaGuardia.

no.wikipedia.org/wiki/US_Airways_Flight_1549

10-15 checklists even on short routine flights



Checklists

- Reduce risk of **forgetting** to carry out vital actions
- Ensure checks are carried out in the **correct sequence**
- Encourage **cooperation** and **cross-checking** between crew members
- Make sure that everyone is "**on the same page**"

en.wikipedia.org

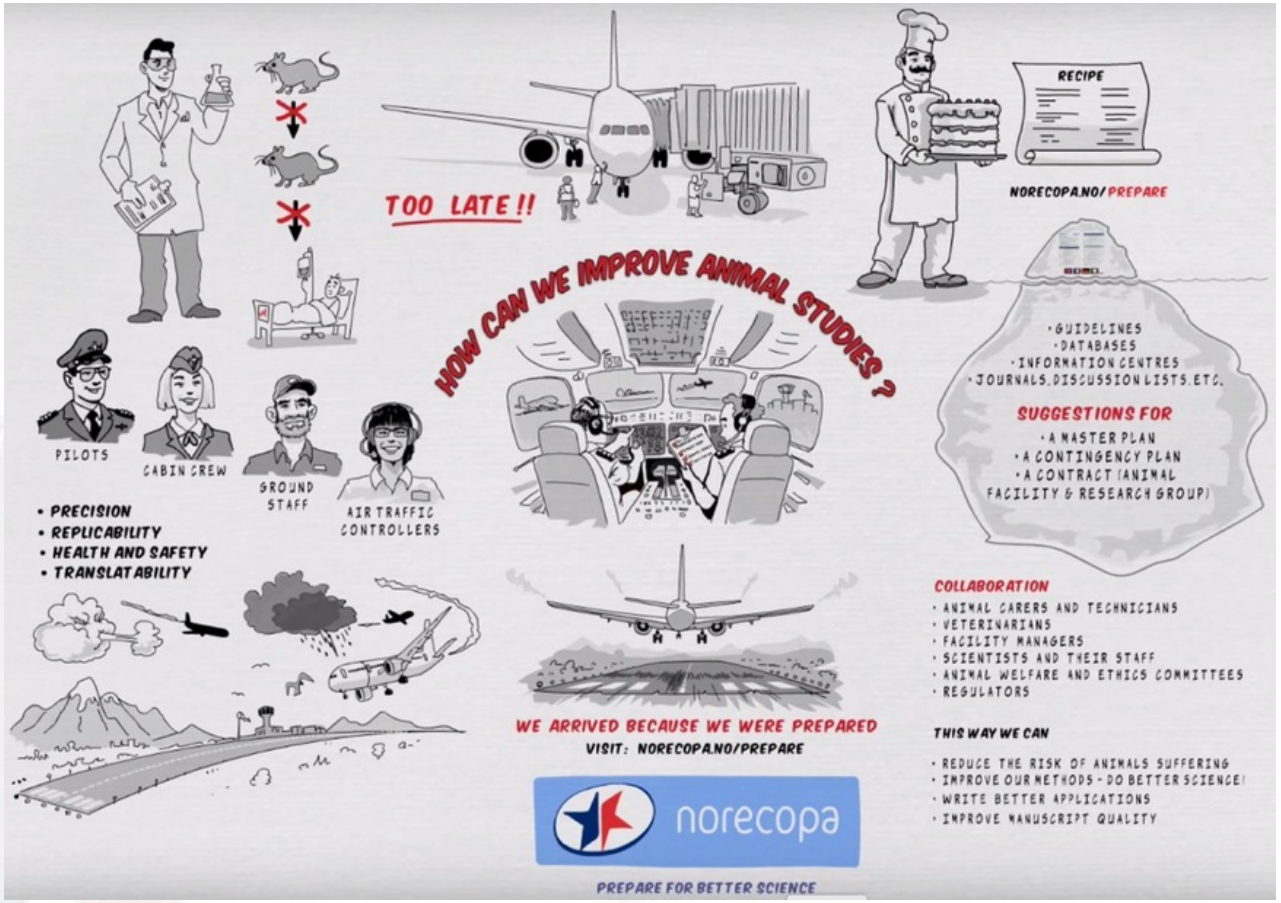
Hudson River, 2009

All 155 passengers and crew saved

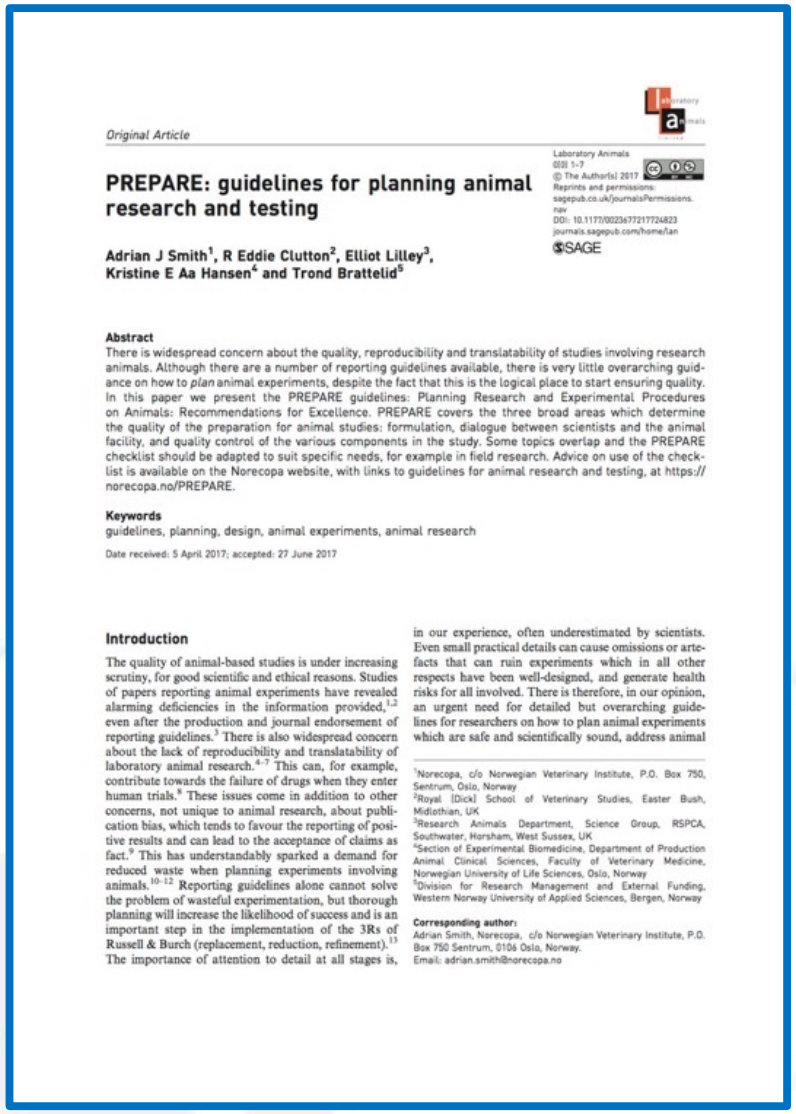
Rapid evacuation by trained cabin crew saved many lives

norecopa.no/PREPARE/film

3-minute whiteboard film



Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science



Original Article

PREPARE: guidelines for planning animal research and testing

Adrian J Smith[1], R Eddie Clutton[2], Elliot Lilley[3], Kristine E Aa Hansen[4] and Trond Brattelid[5]

Laboratory Animals
0(0) 1–7

DOI: 10.1177/0023677217724823
journals.sagepub.com/home/lan
SAGE

Abstract

There is widespread concern about the quality, reproducibility and translatability of studies involving research animals. Although there are a number of reporting guidelines available, there is very little overarching guidance on how to *plan* animal experiments, despite the fact that this is the logical place to start ensuring quality. In this paper we present the PREPARE guidelines: Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence. PREPARE covers the three broad areas which determine the quality of the preparation for animal studies: formulation, dialogue between scientists and the animal facility, and quality control of the various components in the study. Some topics overlap and the PREPARE checklist should be adapted to suit specific needs, for example in field research. Advice on use of the checklist is available on the Norecopa website, with links to guidelines for animal research and testing, at https://norecopa.no/PREPARE.

Keywords

guidelines, planning, design, animal experiments, animal research

Date received: 5 April 2017; accepted: 27 June 2017

Introduction

The quality of animal-based studies is under increasing scrutiny, for good scientific and ethical reasons. Studies of papers reporting animal experiments have revealed alarming deficiencies in the information provided,[1,2] even after the production and journal endorsement of reporting guidelines.[3] There is also widespread concern about the lack of reproducibility and translatability of laboratory animal research.[4–7] This can, for example, contribute towards the failure of drugs when they enter human trials.[8] These issues come in addition to other concerns, not unique to animal research, about publication bias, which tends to favour the reporting of positive results and can lead to the acceptance of claims as fact.[9] This has understandably sparked a demand for reduced waste when planning experiments involving animals.[10–12] Reporting guidelines alone cannot solve the problem of wasteful experimentation, but thorough planning will increase the likelihood of success and is an important step in the implementation of the 3Rs of Russell & Burch (replacement, reduction, refinement).[13] The importance of attention to detail at all stages is, in our experience, often underestimated by scientists. Even small practical details can cause omissions or artefacts that can ruin experiments which in all other respects have been well-designed, and generate health risks for all involved. There is therefore, in our opinion, an urgent need for detailed but overarching guidelines for researchers on how to plan animal experiments which are safe and scientifically sound, address animal

[1]Norecopa, c/o Norwegian Veterinary Institute, P.O. Box 750, Sentrum, Oslo, Norway
[2]Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Easter Bush, Midlothian, UK
[3]Research Animals Department, Science Group, RSPCA, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex, UK
[4]Section of Experimental Biomedicine, Department of Production Animal Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Oslo, Norway
[5]Division for Research Management and External Funding, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Bergen, Norway

Corresponding author:
Adrian Smith, Norecopa, c/o Norwegian Veterinary Institute, P.O. Box 750 Sentrum, 0106 Oslo, Norway.
Email: adrian.smith@norecopa.no

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

Pre-published under Open Access on 3 August 2017, sponsored by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), UK

https://doi.org/10.1177/0023677217724823

Over 28,000 views/downloads from the journal website so far

Also downloadable from
norecopa.no/PREPARE

PREPARE encourages scientists to collaborate with animal carers and technicians from Day 1

- they have a right to know and will be more motivated
- they know the possibilities (and limitations) in the animal facility
- they often possess a large range of practical skills and are good at lateral thinking
- they know the animals best
- the animals know them best
- lack of involvement creates anxiety, depression and opposition to animal research, as well as limiting creativity which might improve the experiments

PREPARE:

Planning **R**esearch and **E**xperimental **P**rocedures on **A**nimals: **R**ecommendations for **E**xcellence

PREPARE covers 15 topics:

Formulation of the study

1. Literature searches
2. Legal issues
3. Ethical issues, harm-benefit assessment and humane endpc
4. Experimental design and statistical analysis

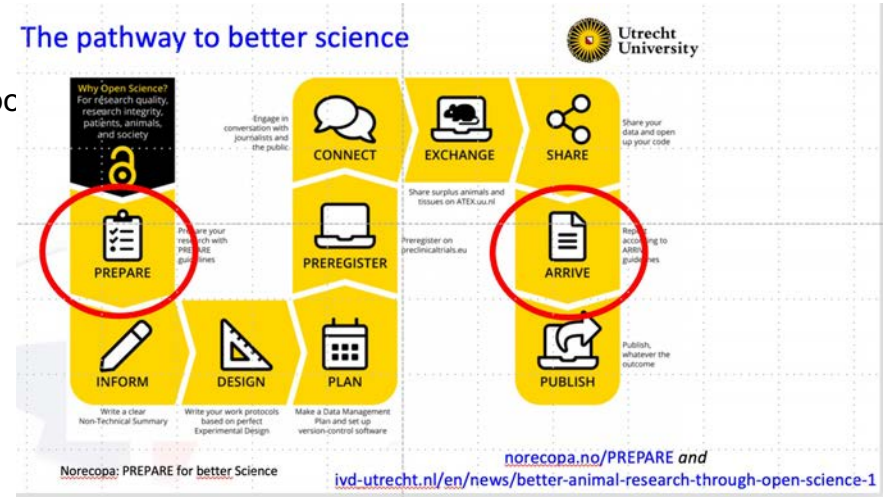
Dialogue between scientists and the animal facility

5. Objectives and timescale, funding and division of labour
6. Facility evaluation
7. Education and training
8. Health risks, waste disposal and decontamination

Methods

9. Test substances and procedures
10. Experimental animals
11. Quarantine and health monitoring
12. Housing and husbandry
13. Experimental procedures
14. Humane killing, release, reuse or rehoming
15. Necropsy

Items in pink are not typically highlighted in reporting guidelines



reddit.com

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

norecopa.no/PREPARE/prepare-checklist

norecopa

PREPARE

norecopa

The PREPARE Guidelines Checklist

Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence

Adrian J. Smith[a], R. Eddie Clutton[b], Elliot Lilley[c], Kristine E. Aa. Hansen[d] & Trond Bratteli[d]

[a]Norecopa, c/o Norwegian Veterinary Institute, P.O. Box 750 Sentrum, 0106 Oslo, Norway; [b]Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Easter Bush, Midlothian, EH25 9RG, U.K.; [c]Research Animals Department, Science Group, RSPCA, Wilberforce Way, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 9RS, U.K.; [d]Section of Experimental Biomedicine, Department of Production Animal Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, P.O. Box 8146 Dep., 0033 Oslo, Norway; [e]Division for Research Management and External Funding, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, 5020 Bergen, Norway.

PREPARE[1] consists of planning guidelines which are complementary to reporting guidelines [illegible]. PREPARE covers the three broad areas which determine the quality of [illegible]:

1. Formulation of the study
2. Dialogue bet[illegible]

[illegible] evolve as more species- and situation-specific guidelines are produced, and [illegible] Laboratory Animal Science progresses. [illegible] guidelines is available on the Norecopa [illegible] or animal [illegible]

Topic	Recommendation
(A) Formulation of the study	
1. Literature searches	☐ Form a clear hypothesis, with primary and secondary outcomes. ☐ Consider the use of systematic reviews. ☐ Decide upon databases and information specialists to be consulted, and construct search terms. ☐ Assess the relevance of the species to be used, its biology and suitability to answer the experimental questions with the least suffering, and its welfare needs. ☐ Assess the reproducibility and translatability of the project.
2. Legal issues	☐ Consider how the research is affected by relevant legislation for animal research and other areas, e.g. animal transport, occupational health and safety. ☐ Locate relevant guidance documents (e.g. EU guidance on project evaluation).
3. Ethical issues, harm-benefit assessment and humane endpoints	☐ Construct a lay summary. ☐ In dialogue with ethics committees, consider whether statements about this type of research have already been produced. ☐ Address the 3Rs (replacement, reduction, refinement) and the 3Ss (good science, good sense, good sensibilities). ☐ Consider pre-registration and the publication of negative results. ☐ Perform a harm-benefit assessment and justify any likely animal harm. ☐ Discuss the learning objectives, if the animal use is for educational or training purposes. ☐ Allocate a severity classification to the project. ☐ Define objective, easily measurable and unequivocal humane endpoints. ☐ Discuss the justification, if any, for death as an end-point.
4. Experimental design and statistical analysis	☐ Consider pilot studies, statistical power and significance levels. ☐ Define the experimental unit and decide upon animal numbers. ☐ Choose methods of randomisation, prevent observer bias, and decide upon inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Animal welfare and Three Rs!

Topic	Recommendation
(B) Dialogue between scientists and the animal facility	
5. Objectives and timescale, funding and division of labour	☐ Arrange meetings with all relevant staff when early plans for the project exist. ☐ Construct an approximate timescale for the project, indicating the need for assistance with preparation, animal care, procedures and waste disposal/decontamination. ☐ Discuss and disclose all expected and potential costs. ☐ Construct a detailed plan for division of labour and expenses at all stages of the study.
[illegible]	[illegible] sical inspection of the facilities, to evaluate building and equipment standards and needs. [illegible] g levels at times of extra risk.
[illegible]	[illegible] ent competence of staff members and the need for further education or training prior
6. Health risks, waste disposal and decontamination	☐ Perform a risk assessment, in collaboration with the animal facility, for all persons and animals affected directly or indirectly by the study. ☐ Assess, and if necessary produce, specific guidance for all stages of the project. ☐ Discuss means for containment, decontamination, and disposal of all items in the study.
(C) Quality control of the components in the study	
9. Test substances and procedures	☐ Provide as much information as possible about test substances. ☐ Consider the feasibility and validity of test procedures and the skills needed to perform them.
10. Experimental animals	☐ Decide upon the characteristics of the animals that are essential for the study and for reporting. ☐ Avoid generation of surplus animals.
11. Quarantine and health monitoring	☐ Discuss the animals' likely health status, any needs for transport, quarantine and isolation, health monitoring and consequences for the personnel.
12. Housing and husbandry	☐ Attend to the animals' specific instincts and needs, in collaboration with expert staff. ☐ Discuss acclimatization, optimal housing conditions and procedures, environmental factors and any experimental limitations on these (e.g. food deprivation, solitary housing).
13. Experimental procedures	☐ Develop refined procedures for capture, immobilisation, marking, and release or rehoming. ☐ Develop refined procedures for substance administration, sampling, sedation and anaesthesia, surgery and other techniques.
14. Humane killing, release, reuse or rehoming	☐ Consult relevant legislation and guidelines well in advance of the study. ☐ Define primary and emergency methods for humane killing. ☐ Assess the competence of those who may have to perform these tasks.
15. Necropsy	☐ Construct a systematic plan for all stages of necropsy, including location, and identification of all animals and samples.

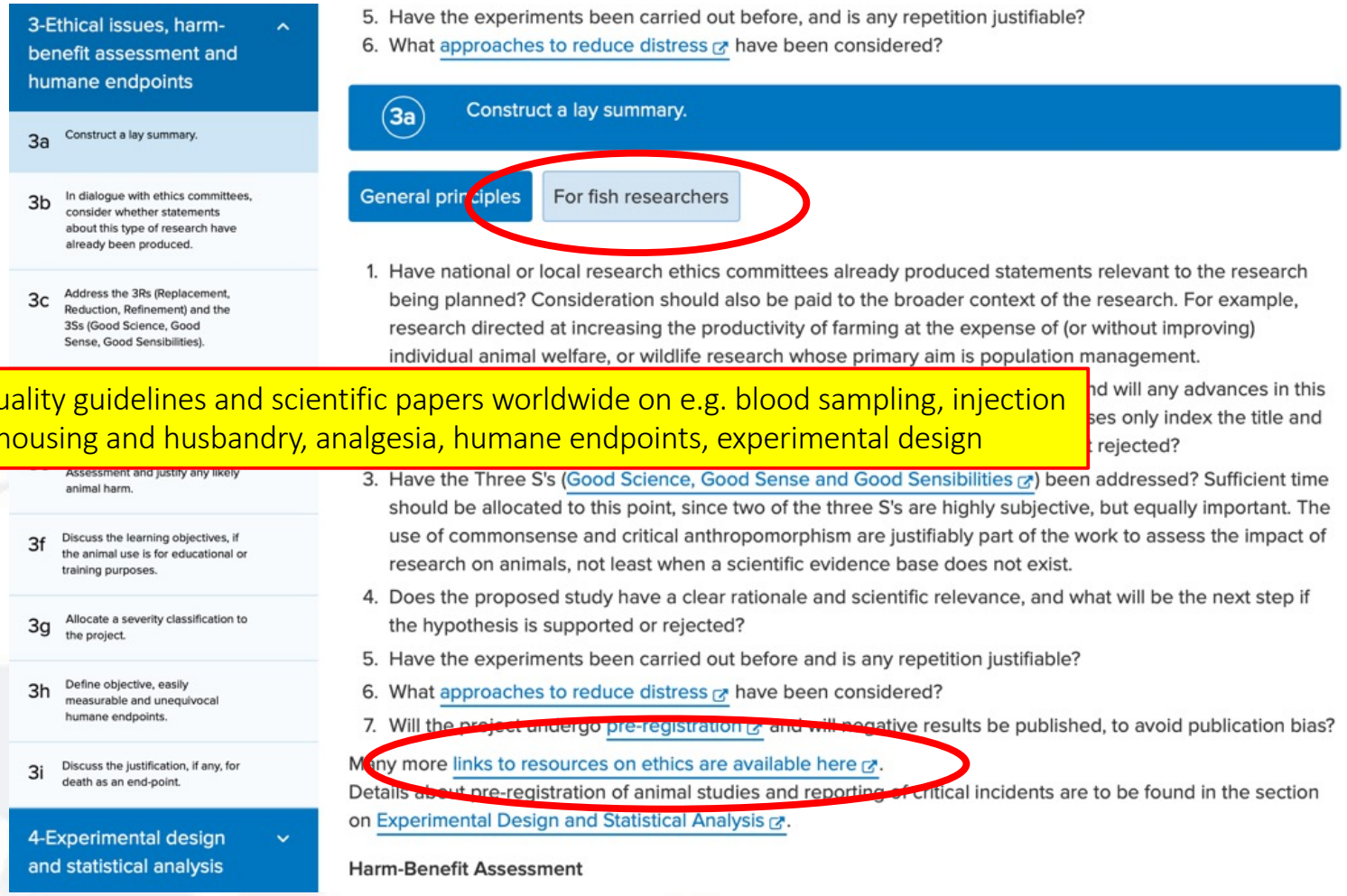
References

1. Smith AJ, Clutton RE, Lilley E, Hansen KEA & Brattelid T. PREPARE: Guidelines for Planning Animal Research and Testing. *Laboratory Animals*. 2017; DOI: 10.1177/0023677217724823.
2. Kilkenny C, Browne WJ, Cuthill IC *et al*. Improving Bioscience Research Reporting: The ARRIVE Guidelines for Reporting Animal Research. *PLoS Biology*. 2010; DOI: 10.1371/journal.pbio.1000412.

Further information
https://norecopa.no/PREPARE / *post@norecopa.no* / @norecopa

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

norecopa.no/PREPARE



Links to quality guidelines and scientific papers worldwide on e.g. blood sampling, injection volumes, housing and husbandry, analgesia, humane endpoints, experimental design

PREPARE is closely linked to

norecopa.no : an updated overview of global 3R resources

approx. 9,000 webpages
350,000 hits annually

7-8 detailed newsletters per year

Databases & Guidelines

Published lists of resources are difficult to search and quickly become outdated. Lists on a website are easier to search, but do not enable the use of filters or intelligent search engines.
Norecopa has therefore constructed four databases, which together with all the text on this website can be searched simultaneously using the search field at the top of every page.

- 3R Guide: a global overview of **databases, guidelines, information centres, journals, email lists, regulations and policies** which may be of use when planning experiments which might include animals. A quick overview of all the guidelines can be accessed here. Norecopa has written several of these, including the PREPARE guidelines for planning animal research and testing.
- NORINA: a global overview of audiovisual aids and other items which may be used as **alternatives or supplements to animals in education and training** at all levels from junior school to University, including dissection alternatives and surgical simulators.
- TextBase: a global overview of **textbooks and other literature within laboratory animal science** and related topics.
- Classic AVs: a subset of NORINA covering **audiovisual aids that are based on older technology**.

These databases are updated regularly. Please give us feedback if you discover errors or omissions.

The Norecopa website also includes four other collections:

- NAL: a collection of literature references relating to the 3Rs from the US National Agricultural Library
- European Commission datasets:
  - 3Rs Knowledge Sources: over 800 resources collected by the Commission in 2016
  - 3Rs Education and Training Resources, over 560 items collected in 2018
  - Non-animal models for respiratory tract diseases, over 280 models identified in a literature review of over 21,000 publications

Here is an alphabetical global list of all the databases cited on the Norecopa website.

norecopa.no/databases-guidelines

links to over 70 other databases

norecopa.no/3RGuide

Links to 415 guidelines

A good practice guide to the administration of substances and removal of blood, including routes and volumes

3R Guide database/c6721 (legacy id: 15079)

This paper provides the researcher in the safety evaluation laboratory with an up-to-date, easy-to-use set of data sheets to aid in the study design process whilst at the same time affording maximum welfare considerations to the experimental animals.

A guide to defining and implementing protocols for the welfare assessment of laboratory animals

3R Guide database/68ba4 (legacy id: 15065)

Eleventh report of the BVAAWF/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint Working Group on Refinement

A guide to the care and use of native Australian mammals in research and teaching

3R Guide database/502ff (legacy id: 15377)

The Guide supports implementation of the Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (8th edition, 2013) and ensures that the specific and unique needs of Australian native mammals are met when these animals are used for scientific purposes.

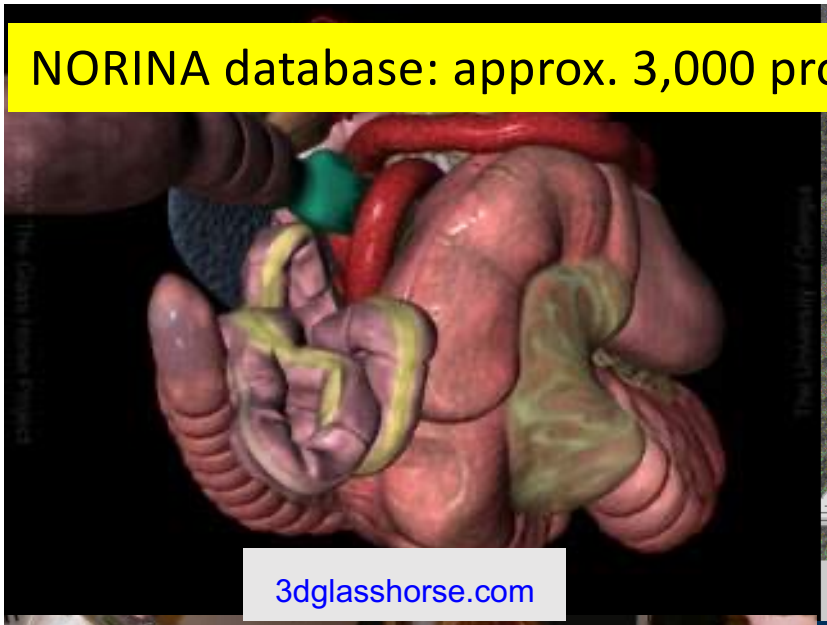
AAALAC Position Statements

3R Guide database/ef566 (legacy id: 15155)

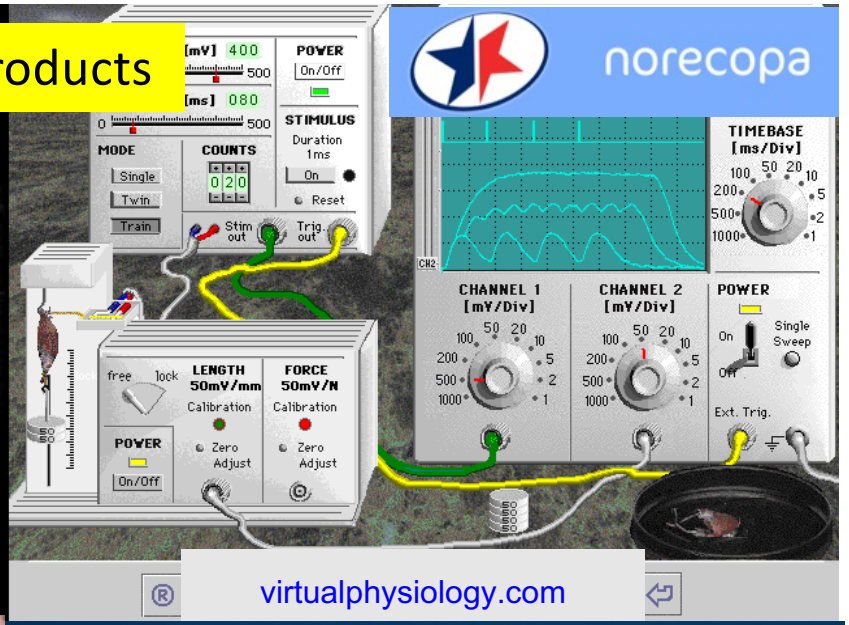
In connection with its work of accreditation of animal care and use programmes, AAALAC International has issued position statements on a number of key elements in such a programme.

colourbox.com

NORINA database: approx. 3,000 products

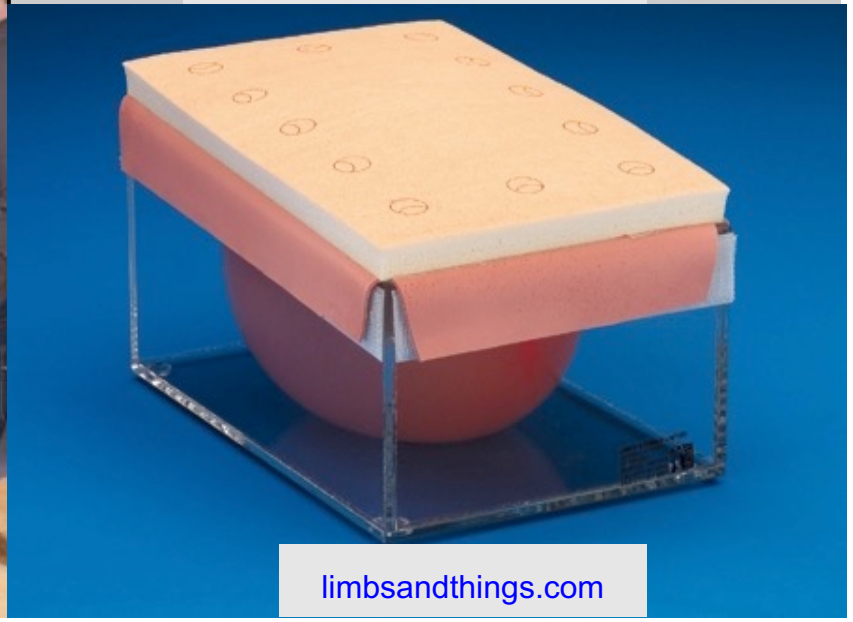


3dglasshorse.com



virtualphysiology.com

rescuecritters.com



limbsandthings.com

norecopa.no/education-training/films-and-slide-shows

norecopa

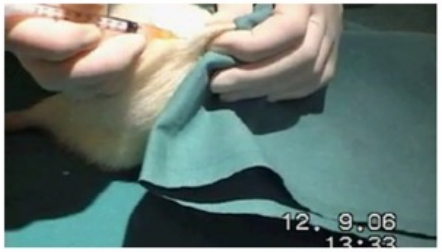
Rat s.c. injection
Norecopa | 1,380 views

Rat i.p. injection (method 2)
Norecopa | 1,280 views

Anatomia de la rata
Norecopa | 977 views

Testing anaesthetic depth in the chicken
Norecopa | 598 views

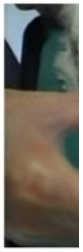
Blood collection from the saphenous vein in the mouse
Norecopa | 6,777 views



Subcutaneous injection in the rat - Technique 1
Norecopa | 2,249 views

Blood san
Norecop

Blood san
Norecop



Blood san
Norecop

Blood sampling from the pig
Norecopa | 3,914 views

Intravenous injection in a rabbit
Norecopa | 2,025 views

Lifting a rabbit
Norecopa | 2,420 views

Subcutaneous injection in the rabbit
Norecopa | 1,479 views

Subcutaneous injection in the chicken
Norecopa | 1,806 views

Immobilisation of the rabbit
Norecopa | 2,072 views

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

RESEARCH ANIMAL TRAINING

researchanimaltraining.com

Articles ⌄ eModules ⌄ Log in

Training resources for animal research

National Legislation (EU1)
Understand the national and international legal and regulatory framework within which projects involving animals are constructed and managed and of the legal responsibilities of the people involved.

Ethics, Animal Welfare and the 3Rs (EU2)
Identify the ethical and welfare issues raised by the use of animals in scientific procedures and understand the basic principles of the 3Rs.

Basic and Appropriate Biology (EU3)
Discover the basic principles of animal behaviour, care, biology and husbandry.

Animal Care, Health and Management (EU4)
Examine information on various aspects of animal health, care and management including, environmental controls, husbandry practices, diet, health status and disease.

Recognition of Pain, Suffering and Distress (EU5)
Identify the normal condition and behaviour of experimental animals and differentiate between a normal animal and one which is showing signs of pain, suffering or distress.

Humane Methods of Killing (EU6.1)
Learn the principles of humane killing including descriptions of the different methods available and information to help you compare the methods permitted to determine the most appropriate method.

Minor Procedures without Anaesthesia (EU7)
An introduction to the theory relating to minor procedures and information about appropriate methods of handling, restraint, appropriate techniques for injection, dosing and sampling relevant to the species.

Anaesthesia for Minor Procedures (EU20)
Guidance and information for individuals who, during their work with animals, will need to apply sedation or short-term anaesthesia for a brief period and mild pain level procedure.

eModules

Click to access

eModule – Recognition and Prevention of Pain, Suffering and Distress (EU5) ACCESS

eModule – Humane Methods of Killing (EU6) ACCESS

eModule – Design of procedures and projects (level 1) (EU10) ACCESS

eModule – Design of procedures and projects (level 2) (EU11) ACCESS

eModule – The Severity Assessment Framework (EU12) ACCESS

eModule – Anaesthesia for Minor Procedures (EU20) ACCESS

eModule – Pre-Anaesthetic Preparations (EU21-1) ACCESS

eModule – Choosing an Anaesthetic (EU21-2) ACCESS

eModule – Anaesthetic Monitoring and Intraoperative Care (EU21-3) ACCESS

eModule – Anaesthetic Breathing Systems, Airway Management and Neuromuscular Blocking Agents (EU21-4) ACCESS

eModule – Anaesthetic Management and Preventing Problems (EU21-5) ACCESS

eModule – Post Anaesthetic Care (EU21-6) ACCESS

eModule – Project Evaluation (EU25)

TextBase:

1,500 books related to LAS:

norecopa.no/textbase

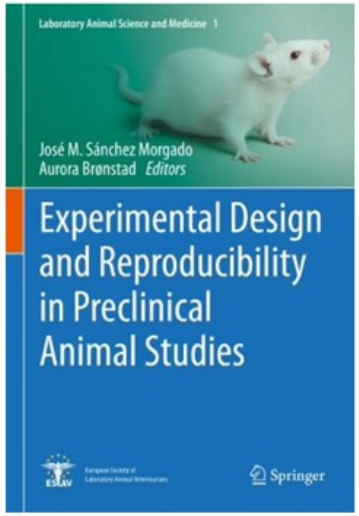
Experimental Design and Reproducibility in Preclinical Animal Studies

By José M. Sánchez Morgado & Aurora Brønstad (Eds.)

Record number: 8619d

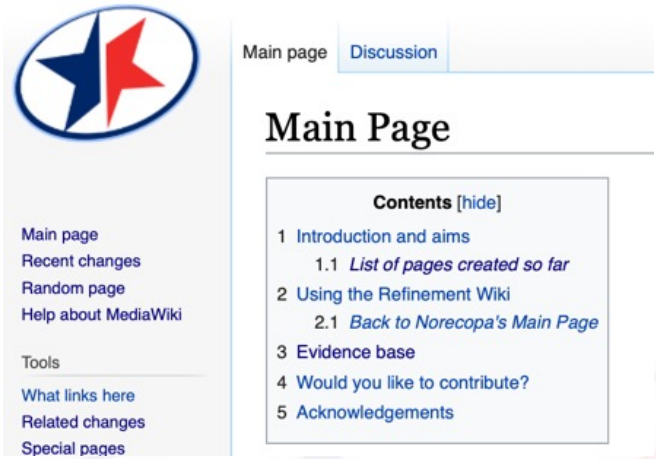
This book provides grounds on how to plan and conduct animal experiments that can be reproduced by others. It touches on factors that may impact the reproducibility of animal studies including: the animal genetic background, the animal microbial flora, environmental and physiological variables affecting the animal, animal welfare, statistics and experimental design, systematic reviews of animal studies, and the publishing process.

The book addresses advanced undergraduates, graduate students and all scientists working with animals.



norecopa.no/textbase/experimental-design-and-reproducibility-in-preclinical-animal-studies

The Refinement Wiki



Susanna Louihimies

wiki.norecopa.no

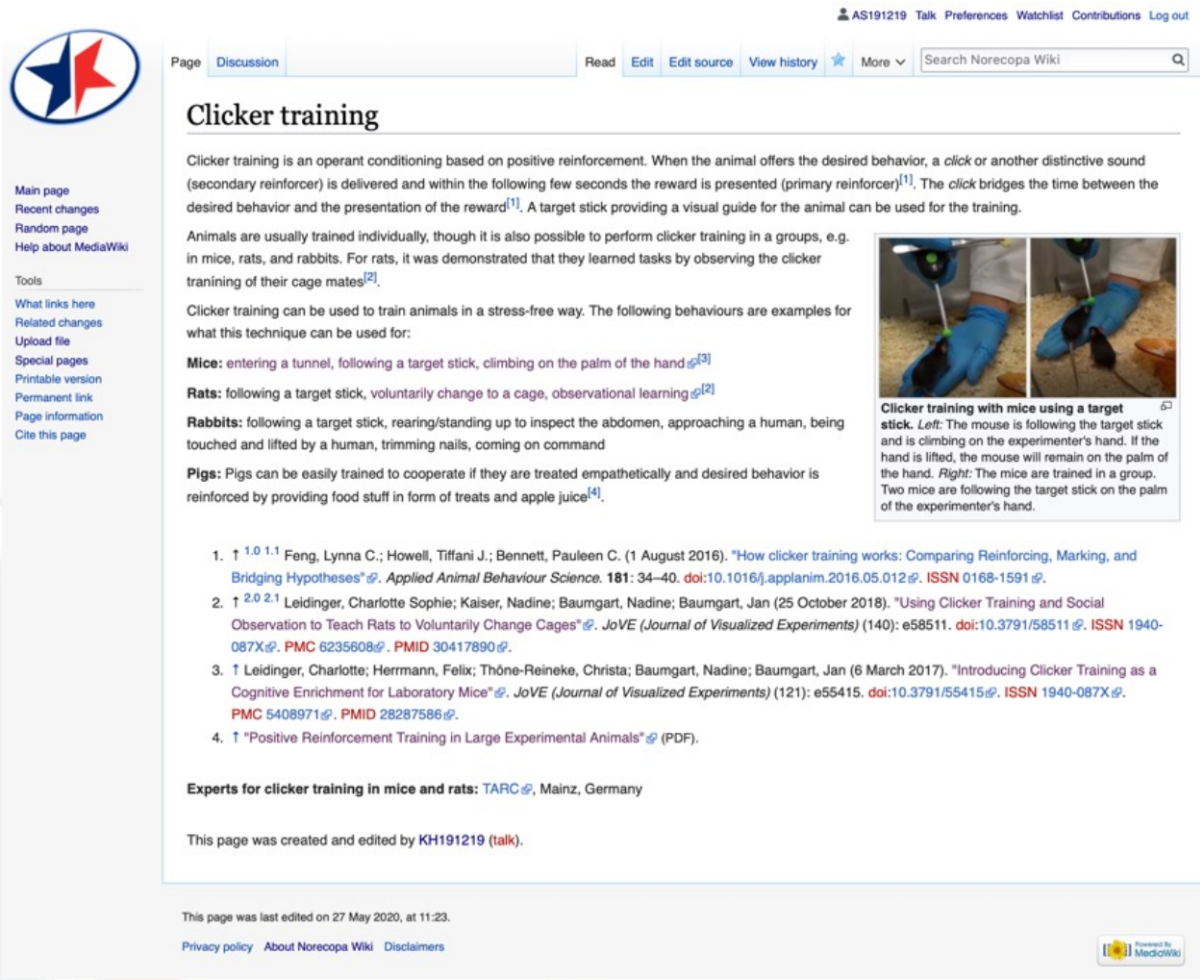
Born from the knowledge that a lot of good ideas on refinement circulate on discussion forums, but never get published.

Designed to be

- a portal for rapid publication and dissemination of these ideas
- a place to identify experts on specific refinement techniques

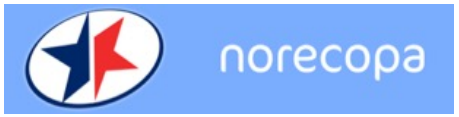
wiki.norecopa.no

Return to homepage



Pages created (March 2023)

wiki.norecopa.no



- Acclimatisation
- Adrian Smith
- Alphaxalone
- Anaesthesia in neonates
- Analgesia
- Asepsis
- Blood sampling of hamsters
- Blood sampling of pigs
- Blood sampling of rainbow trout
- Breeding strategies for mice
- Clicker training
- Contingency plans
- Decapitation
- Detecting early onset of clinical signs in the mouse model of Covid-19
- Detection of pain and distress in mice
- EMLA cream
- Embryo transfer
- Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyeltis (EAE)
- Facial expression analysis
- Food crunchers
- General discusson on use of analgesics
- Genotyping mice
- Habituation training
- High-fat diets
- Hot Bead Sterilisers
- Housing nude mice
- Housing research fish
- Humane endpoints
- Hydrodynamic gene delivery
- Intra-ocular injections
- Intranasal administration
- Intraperitoneal injection
- Intraperitoneal pentobarbitone
- Ketamine and alpha-2 agonist combinations
- Long-term anaesthesia in rodents
- Lumpfish
- Main Page
- Marble Burying Test
- Metabolic cages
- Minipumps
- Montanide adjuvant
- Mouse Grimace Scale
- Mouse handling
- Nest building material
- Oestrus suppression in ferrets
- Pneumocystis murina
- Recapping needles
- Rotarod Test
- Screening cell lines
- Sedation of cattle
- Splenectomy
- Sterilisation of instruments
- TTEAM and TTouch
- Tail vein injection
- Tramadol
- Transport stress
- Tumour cell implant into mammary fat pad
- Ulcerative Dermatitis in Mice
- Water quality
- Xenopus laevis
- Zebrafish swabbing

There is help available to PREPARE for better science at all levels

EU / National

Facility

Project

Procedure

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

EU / National

ec.europa.eu/animals-in-science

ENVIRONMENT

European Commission > Environment > Chemicals > Animals used for scientific purposes

Home | About us | Policies | Funding | Legal compliance | News & outreac

Animals used for scientific purposes

Retrieval and provision of information on the "Three Rs" and alternatives

Accessing accurate, relevant and up-to-date information on the Three Rs is a challenge for all those use of animals.

Legislation and implementation

- EU legislative framework
- Implementation of Directive 2010/63/EU
- Q&A and guidance documents

The "Three Rs" and alternative approaches

- Replacement, Reduction and Refinement – the "Three Rs"
- Validation, acceptance and use
- EU activities to advance alternatives
- Member State activities to advance alternatives
- Finding and distributing information on alternatives
- Key resources
  - Search Tools
  - Databases
  - Portals and web-sites
  - Journals
  - Other resources and organisations

Animals used for scientific purposes

Opinions of European Commission Expert Committees related to the use of animals in experiments

Norecopa: PREPARE

Facility

aaalac INTERNATIONAL

Program Description

A. Animal Care and Use Program

B. Animal environment, Housing and Management

C. Veterinary Care

D. Physical plant

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

norecopa

63 pages

Quality assurance and a culture of care at all levels in the animal facility

- SOPs describing good techniques, carried out by competent operators
- Checklist ("contract") between researcher and the facility
- The AAALAC Program Description template* can be a good overall performance checklist
  - Institutional policies on animal care and use
  - Animal environment, housing and management
  - Veterinary care
  - Physical plant
- A Master Plan as a weekly checklist for the whole facility during the year

*www.aaalac.org/programdesc/index.cfm

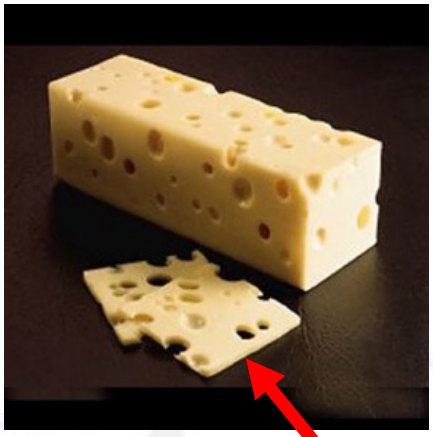
Photo: Naouel Gharbi
uib.no/en/zffac/54560/housing-system

norecopa.no/prepare/6-facility-evaluation/6a/general-principles

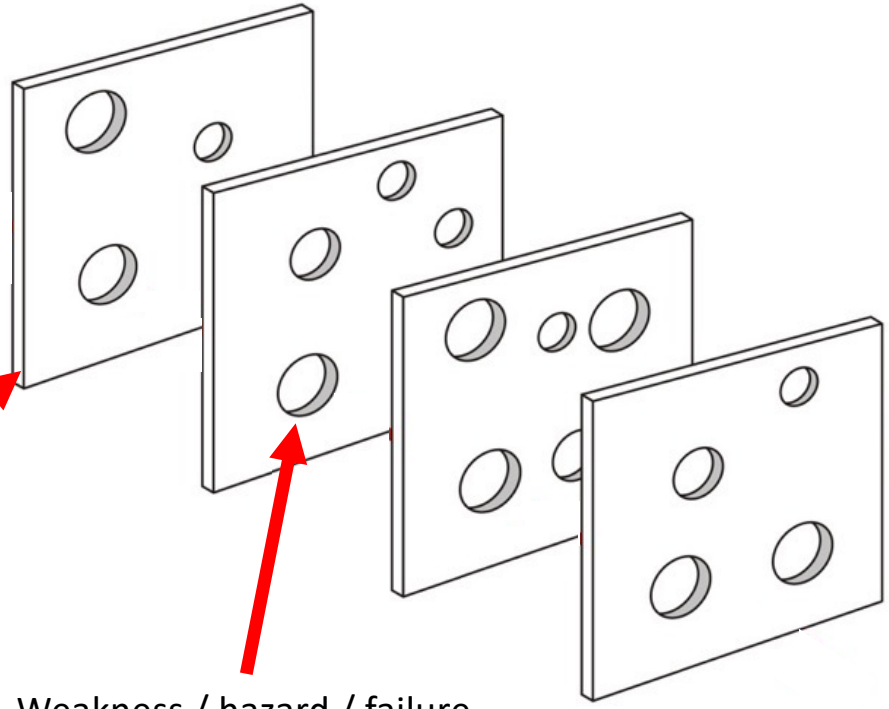
A simple but effective Master Plan

norecopa.no/more-resources/master-plan-and-sops

Threat and Error Management: attending to the small issues before they create a large one



eaugallecheese.com/Swiss-Cheese

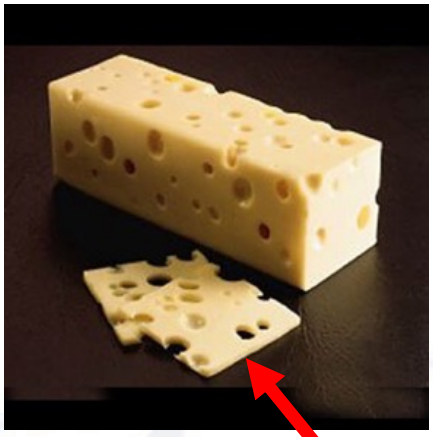


"Layer of defence"
or redundancy

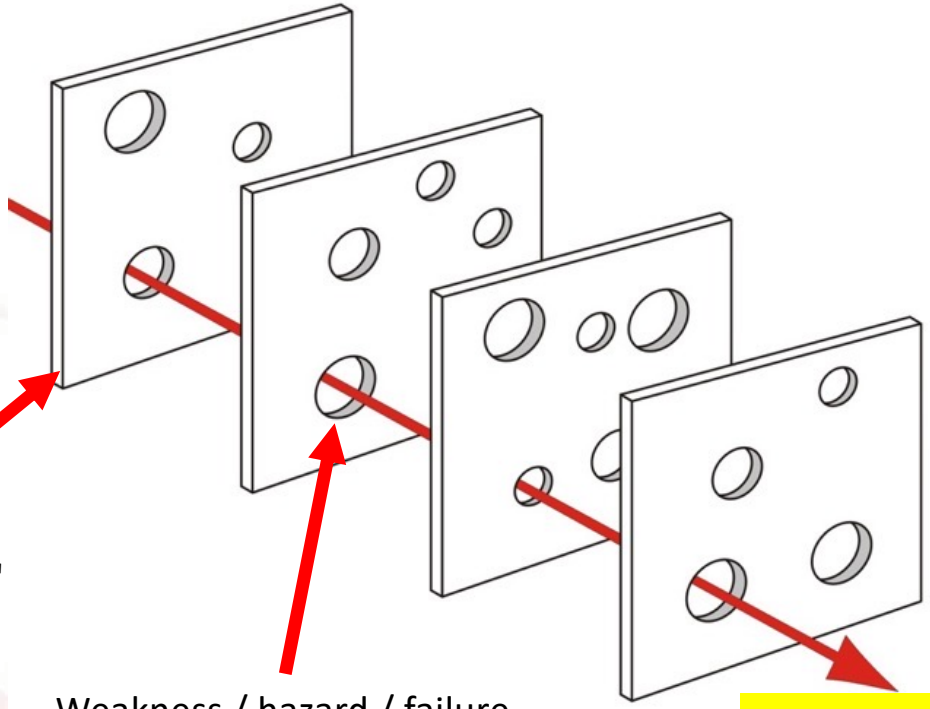
Weakness / hazard / failure

wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_cheese_model

Threat and Error Management: attending to the small issues before they create a large one



eaugallecheese.com/Swiss-Cheese



"Layer of defence"
or redundancy

Weakness / hazard / failure

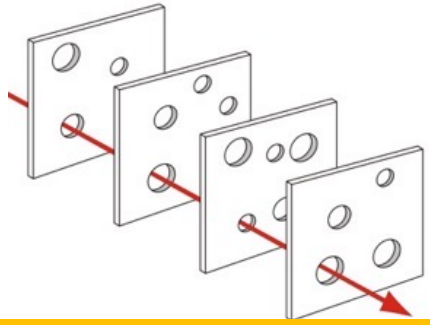
Major incident

wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_cheese_model

A Contingency Plan, based upon risk assessment

- Access to emergency services (police, fire, medical and veterinary help, security guards, personnel transport in cases of acute illness)
- Means of communication with staff members at all levels
- SOPs for acute illness, including
  - serious haemorrhages
  - fainting
  - corrosive injuries
  - and forms for reporting such injuries
- Firefighting, evacuation of personnel and animals
- Access to specialist services (e.g. ventilation system, plumbing, electrical installations, suppliers of equipment)
- Routines in cases of power failure, water leaks and (if applicable) natural disasters such as flooding
- Routines for emergency killing of animals
- Routines in cases of threats to the facility or personnel

Many of these needed revision in the light of Covid-19
norecopa.no/be-prepared



Temporary staff at weekends and holidays

https://norecopa.no/prepare/6-facility-evaluation/master-plan-and-sops/contingency-plan

Contingency and redundancy

Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong (Murphy's Law)
when it's least convenient *(Sod's Law)*

Work in the spirit of AAALAC,

even if not accredited!

Photo: NMBU

Project

A contract between the animal facility and the research group

Division of labour, responsibilities and cost

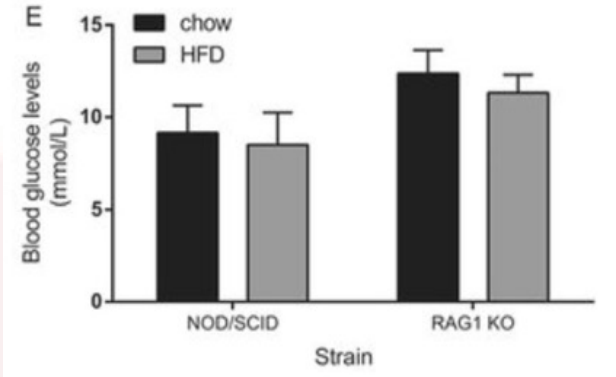
Clarifying all stages of the experiment

Ensuring that all necessary data are recorded

	Animal facility	Researcher	Not applicable
Animal:			
Arrival date			
Species			
Strain/stock and substrain			
Supplier (full name and address) or bred on the premises			
Number and sex			
Age, weight, stage of life cycle on arrival			
Pre-treatment (surgical or medical) from supplier			
Quality (e.g. SPF, germ-free, gnotobiotic, conventional)			
Acclimation time before the start of the experiment			
Time and duration of fasting (with/without water and bedding)			
Environment:			
Type of housing: barrier/conventional			
Temperature (mean ± variation)			
Light schedule			
Relative humidity (mean ± variation)			
Number of air changes in the animal room/cabinet per hour			
Environmental enrichment			
Housing:			
Free-range, shelf, cabinet, isolator			
Cage type and size			
Number and method of distribution of animals per cage			

Procedure

The scientist



The mouse

Breeding
New social groups
Transportation
Acclimation to research facility
Allocation to experimental group
Adaptation to new diet
Handling and immobilisation

Blood sampling

often also:
injections, gavaging, surgery
pain and distress
developing illness and death

Culture of Care

The International Culture of Care Network

norecopa.no/coc

A demonstrable commitment, throughout the establishment, to improving:

- animal welfare
- scientific quality
- care of staff
- transparency for all stakeholders, including the public

It goes beyond simply complying with the law!

Culture of Care facilitates honest discussion

"because we've always done it that way"

"as often as necessary"

"there are no alternatives"

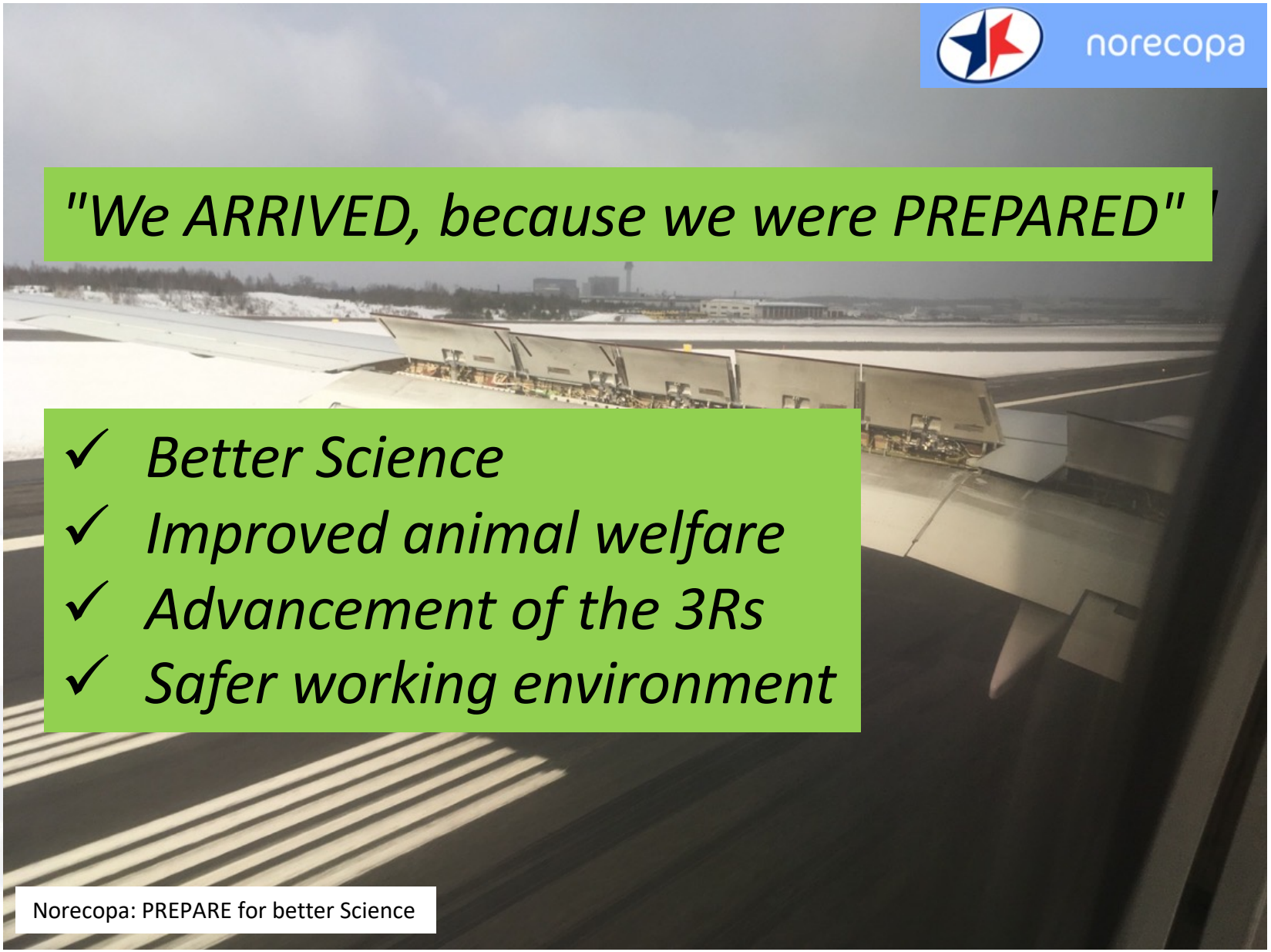
Closely related to a culture of care is

a **Culture of Challenge** (Louhimies, 2015).

Look for the acceptable, rather than choosing the accepted.

wikipedia


CIRS-LAS Portal
Critical incident reporting system in laboratory animal science
Refine - Reduce - Replace
Homepage
Project
Team
FAQ
Detect a critical incident
Anonymous report
CIRS-LAS.de
Get involved!
We all learn from it!
Expert analysis


norecopa
"We ARRIVED, because we were PREPARED"
✓ Better Science
✓ Improved animal welfare
✓ Advancement of the 3Rs
✓ Safer working environment
Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

norecopa.no/Europhysiology

norecopa

PREPARE for better Science

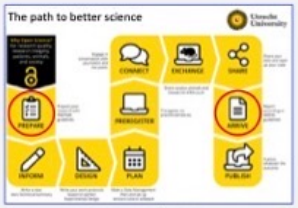
Let's PREPARE together to ARRIVE in better shape: how to plan animal experiments

Adrian Smith, Norecopa, c/o Norwegian Veterinary Institute, P.O. Box 64, 1431 Ås, Norway
adrian.smith@norecopa.no

What's the problem?

Preclinical *in vivo* research needs to be reproducible and translatable, while maximising the animals' welfare and replacing them with alternatives wherever possible. This can be summed up in **the 3Rs** of Russell & Burch: ***Replace, Reduce & Refine***.

Scientists are usually well aware of ***reporting*** guidelines when publishing research. These are important, but a sub-standard study, like a burnt cake, cannot be improved by a better description. Guidelines for ***planning***, although not mandatory, are of great help in designing better experiments.



norecopa.no/PREPARE

What can Norecopa offer?

Norecopa maintains a comprehensive database of resources for scientists, which include:

- 8,900 searchable webpages of quality 3R resources, with filters to facilitate searching
- the PREPARE guidelines for planning animal experiments, with a checklist in over 30 languages
- links to recordings of webinars covering all aspects of animal research
- an International Webinars & Meetings Calendar
- a collection of 400 guidelines for planning and conducting animal research
- an English-language newsletter with the latest developments within experimental design
- the NORINA database of alternatives to animal use in education and training
- a Refinement Wiki

Examples of Norecopa's resources:

PREPARE covers:

- ✓ *Formulation of a study*
- ✓ *Dialogue between scientists and the animal facility*
- ✓ *Quality control of the components in the study*

norecopa.no/PREPARE

The Refinement Wiki
wiki.norecopa.no

Norecopa gratefully acknowledges financial support from:
The Norwegian Parliament, the Ministry of Agriculture & Food and the Ministry of Trade, Industry & Fisheries; the Nordic Society against Painful Experiments (NSMSD), Novo Nordisk, the Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance (Dyrevernalliansen), the Norwegian Society for Protection of Animals (Dyrebeskyttelsen Norge), the Research Council of Norway, Laboratory Animals Ltd., the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Sanofi, the Scottish Accreditation Board, the Stiansen Foundation, the Universities Federation of Animal Welfare (UFAW) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

Thanks to Norecopa's main sponsors:

- Standing Committee on Business Affairs, Norwegian Parliament
- Norwegian Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Research Council of Norway
- Laboratory Animals Ltd.
- Architect Finn Rahn's Legacy
- Nordic Society Against Painful Experiments (NSMSD)
- Norwegian Society for Animal Protection (Dyrebeskyttelsen Norge)
- Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance (Dyrevernalliansen)
- Novo Nordisk
- Sanofi
- Scottish Accreditation Board (SAB)
- Stiansen Foundation
- Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Graphics: colourbox.com

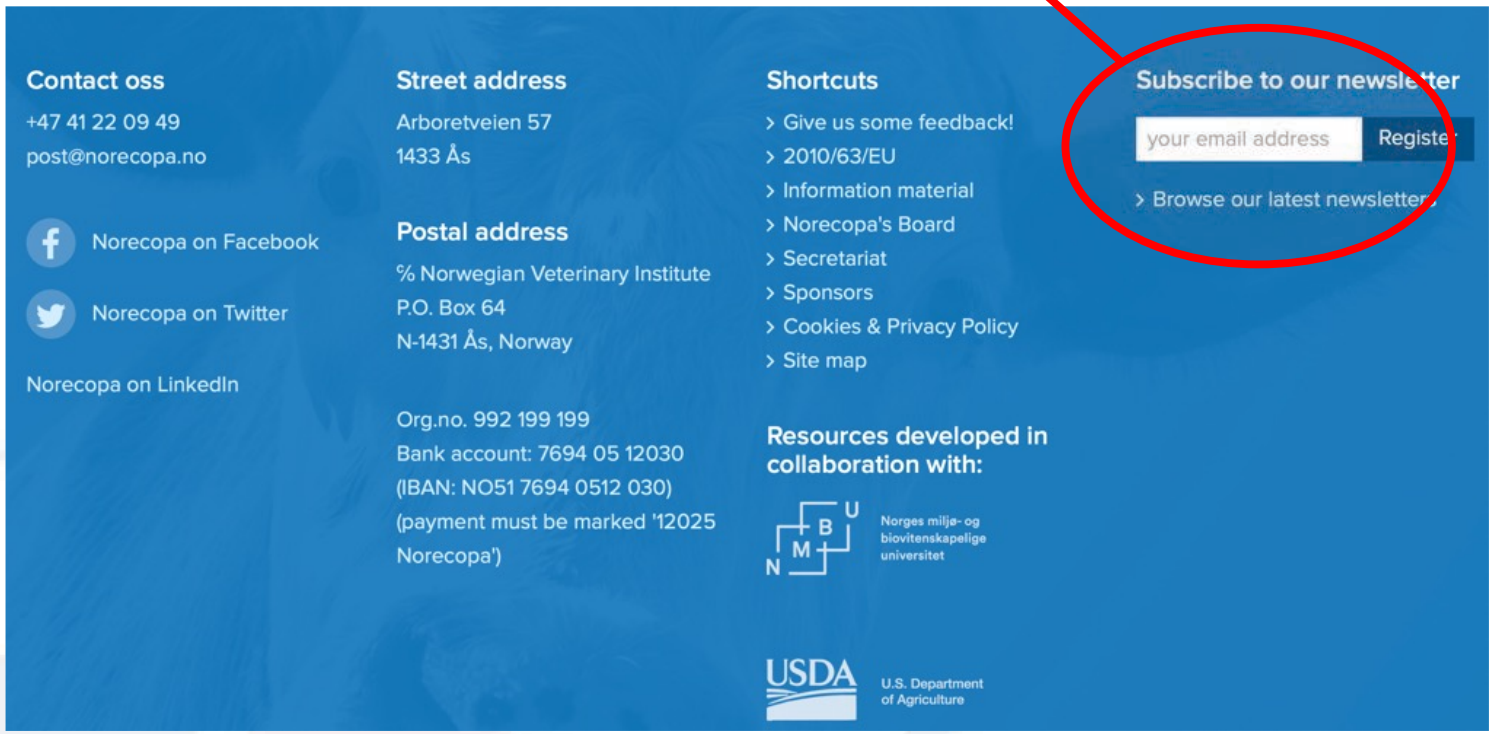
+ webpages for past meetings and recorded meetings sorted by topics in PREPARE

norecopa.no/meetings/meetings-calendar

norecopa

norecopa.no/290323

English-language newsletters



Thank you for listening!