Using a Refinement Wiki to enhance communication

norecopa.no/FELASA/wiki

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https://norecopa.no

Acknowledgements

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The Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance's Research Fund

Dyrevernalliansen

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

Acknowledgements

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Paulin Jirkof
Viola Galligioni
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Will you be the next contributor?

Alle other contributors.
And not least to Mark d'Alton who collated discussions on the VOLE forum so that they could be added to the Wiki.

but the responsibility for this presentation is mine alone

Do you agree?
Refinement is often left up to the animal carers and technicians to implement

You are in the best position to understand and implement refinement that is relevant to the animals
- you know them and the facility best.

Communication and Culture of Care!

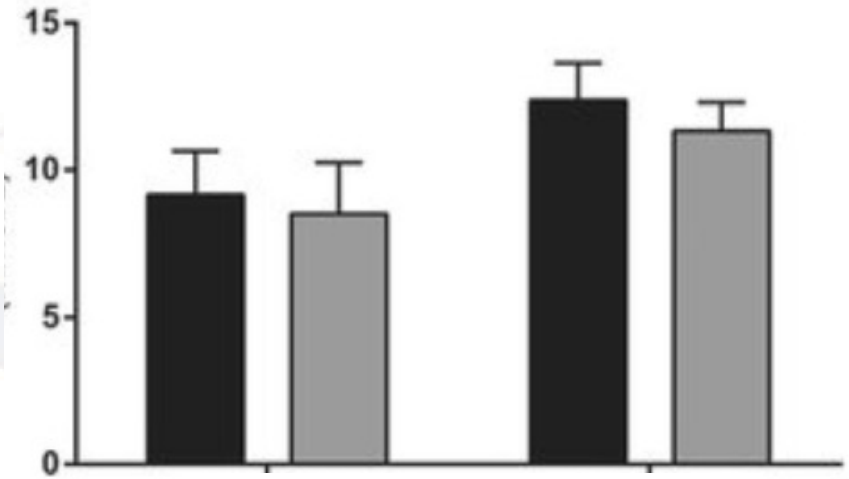
norecopa.no/coc

What do we need to communicate?

- ✓ how to achieve valid data (a true treatment effect)
- ✓ how to conduct reproducible and translatable experiments
- ✓ how to maximise animal welfare
- ✓ health & safety (of animals and people)
- ✓ a culture of care

We have to communicate...

The scientist



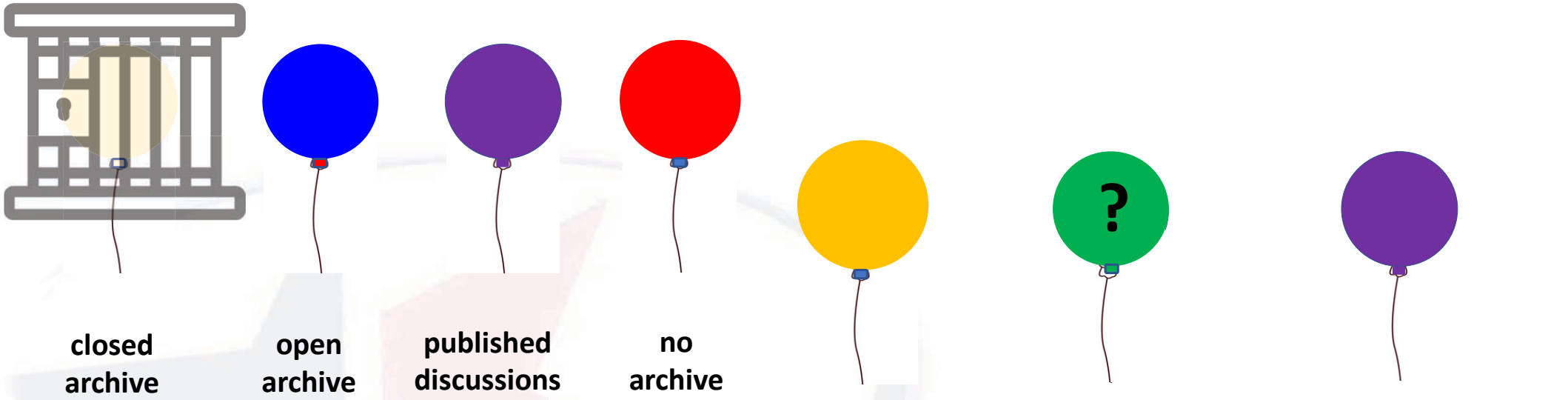
The animal

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, surgery
pain and distress
developing illness, death
health and safety issues

The Waste of Good Ideas...



3R literature can be hard to find...

norecopa.no/more-resources/literature-searches-and-systematic-reviews

- We need to search in several databases (poor overlapping between them)
- Few scientists are aware of the specialist 3R-databases
- Scientists rarely use ”3R” words when they write titles/abstracts/keywords for their papers
- We have no one comprehensive ”Journal of all the Three Rs”
- ***A lot of good 3R ideas are never published...***

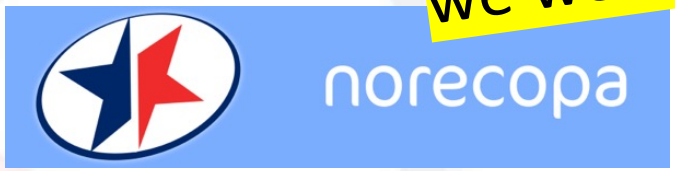
Norecopa

Norway's National Consensus Platform for the

Three Rs: Replacement, Reduction and Refinement

and a source of global 3R resources

we welcome more from you!



https://norecopa.no

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

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

approx. 8,900 webpages
350,000 hits annually

7-8 detailed newsletters per year

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

wiki.norecopa.no

The Refinement Wiki

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
- an aid to finding collaborators for multi-lab studies on refinement

Launched as covid-19 lockdown started... ☹

wiki.norecopa.no

The Refinement Wiki

Contents can be added anonymously or under your name

You can add content yourself, or ask me to so it for you (anonymously or not)

Refinement Wiki

wiki.norecopa.no

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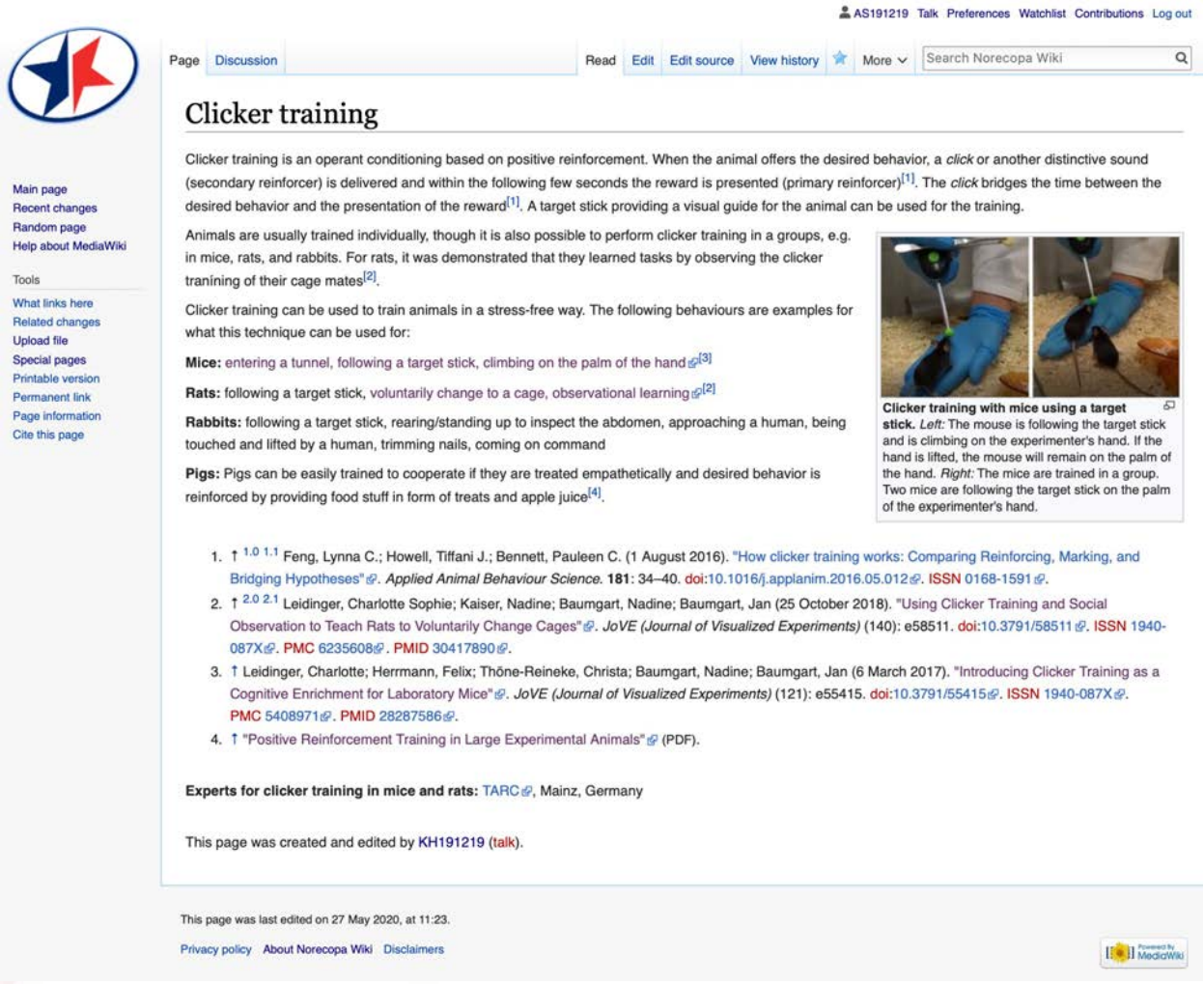

Pages created (June 2022)

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
- Dehydration
- 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
- Forced swim test
- General discusson on use of analgesics
- Genotyping mice
- Habituation training
- Health monitoring
- 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
- Irradiation for haematology studies
- 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
- Non-invasive genetic sampling in wildlife research
- Oestrus suppression in ferrets
- Pneumocystis murina
- Recapping needles
- Refinement of oral gavage
- Rotarod Test
- Screening cell lines
- Sedation of cattle
- Splenectomy
- Sterilisation of instruments
- TTEAM and TTouch
- Tail vein injection
- The use of DMSO
- Tramadol
- Transport stress
- Tumour cell implant into mammary fat pad
- Ulcerative Dermatitis in Mice
- Water quality
- Xenopus laevis
- Zebrafish swabbing

wiki.norecopa.no/index.php/Special:AllPages

wiki.norecopa.no

Can we trust its contents?

The content of the Wiki is NOT curated by Norecopa's staff - responsibility for content lies with the registered users who have contributed to it

Comments about the content of a page can be left on the page's Discussion tab
Comments to a contributor can be left on the their Talk page

It is up to the contributor to describe the evidence base for the refinement.
If the refinement has been published, the reference should be given

If it has only been presented at a scientific meeting, or is a preliminary or observational finding, the contributor's username should be added

wiki.norecopa.no

The Wiki is an integral part of Norecopa's website: norecopa.no

So all Wiki content is retrievable from Norecopa's search engine

In addition, the Wiki has its own internal search engine

We have written a simple instruction manual to keep the threshold for adding new content as low as possible

Prepare

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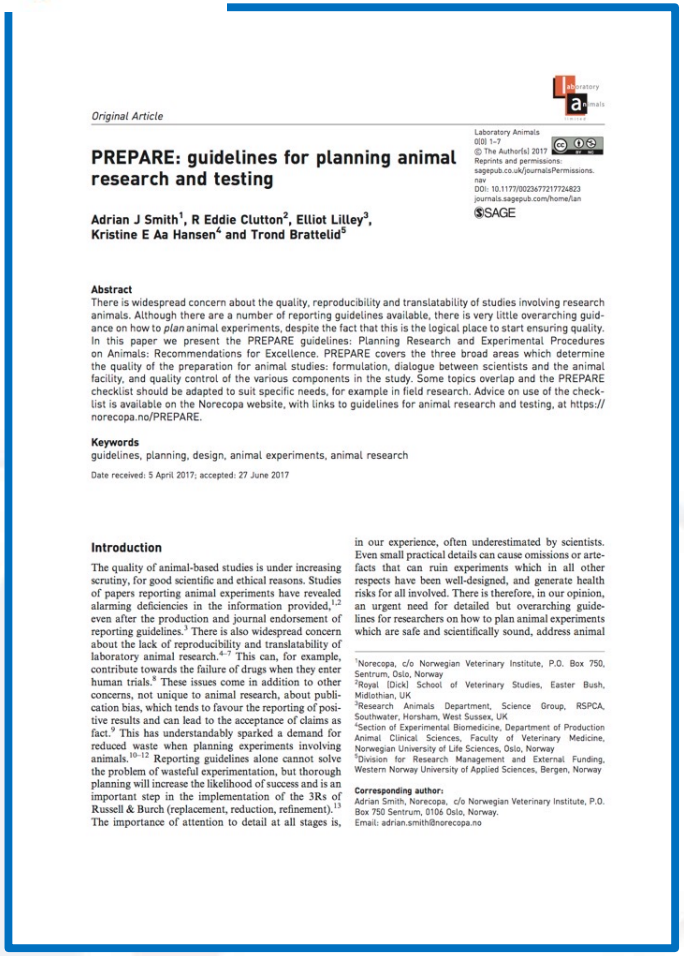

Original Article

PREPARE: guidelines for planning animal research and testing

Laboratory Animals
0(0) 1–7

DOI: 10.1177/0023677217724823
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SAGE

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

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

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UFAW
Established 1926

Over 24,000 downloads from the journal website so far

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 endpoints
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

norecopa.no/PREPARE/prepare-checklist

PREPARE

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[e]

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PREPARE[1] consists of planning guidelines which are complementary to reporting guidelines such as ARRIVE[2].
PREPARE covers the three broad areas which determine the quality of the preparation for animal studies:

1. **Formulation of the study**
2. **Dialogue between scientists and the animal facility**
3. **Quality control of the components in the study**

The topics will not always be addressed in the order in which they are presented here, and the checklist can be adapted to meet special needs, such as field studies. PREPARE includes g… facilities, since in-house experiments are dependent upon their quality. The full version of t… website, with links to global resources, at **https://norecopa.no/PREPARE**.
The PREPARE guidelines are a dynamic set which will evolve as more species- and situation-specific guidelines are produced, and as best practice within Laboratory Animal Science progresses.

Three Rs!

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.

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.
6. Facility evaluation	☐ Conduct a physical inspection of the facilities, to evaluate building and equipment standards and needs. ☐ Discuss staffing levels at times of extra risk.
7. Education and training	☐ Assess the current competence of staff members and the need for further education or training prior to the study.
8. 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

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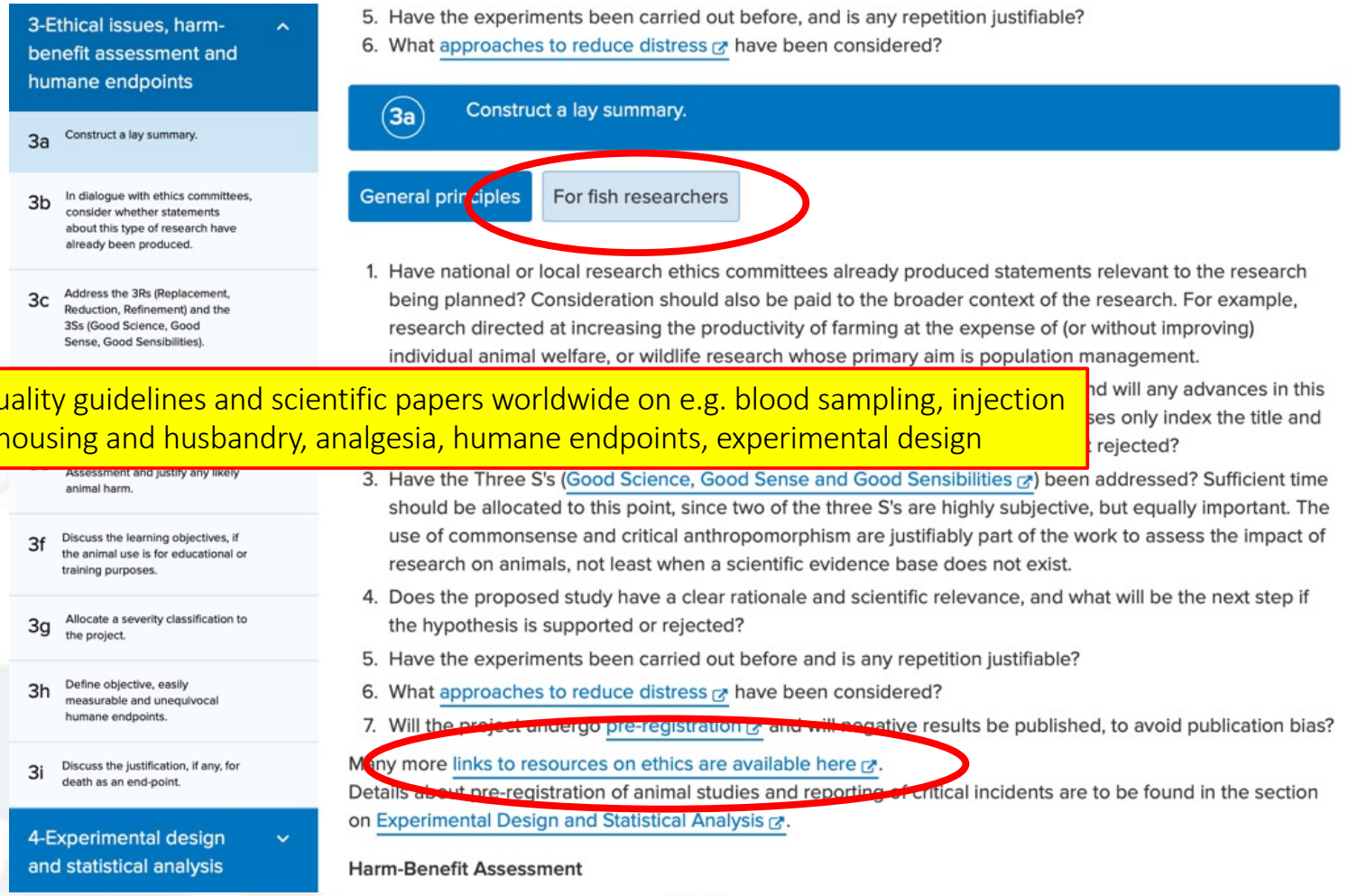


Links to quality guidelines and scientific papers worldwide on e.g. blood sampling, injection volumes, housing and husbandry, analgesia, humane endpoints, experimental design

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

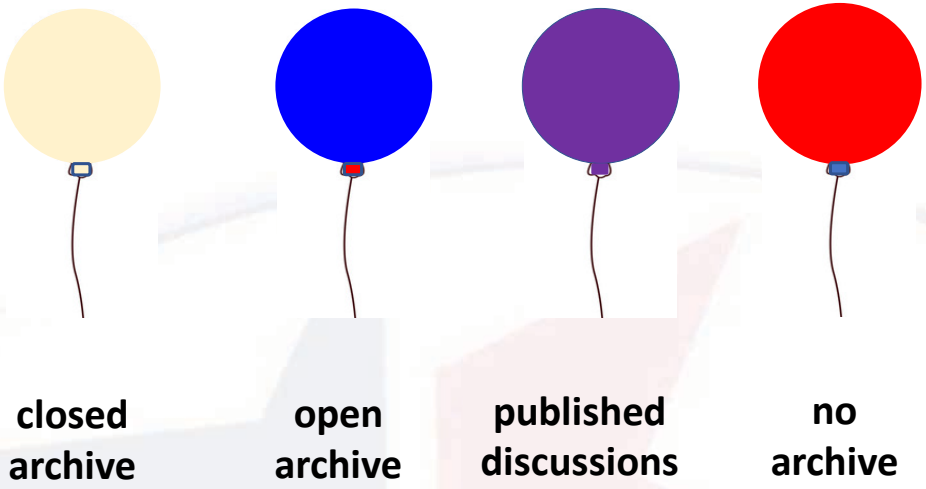
PREPARE encourages scientists to collaborate with you from Day 1 of planning!

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

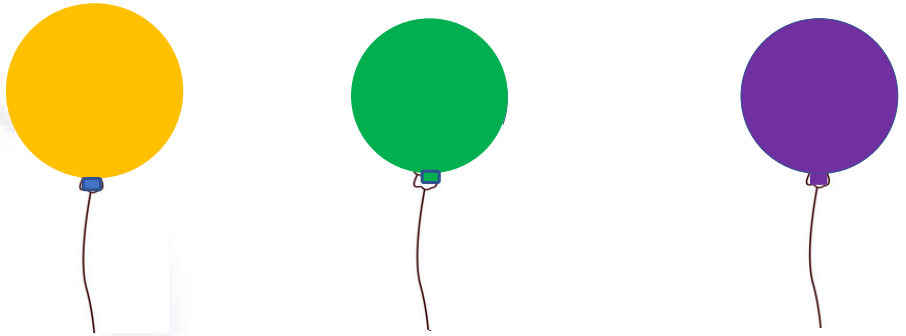
The Fate of Good Ideas...

Enthusiasm for the Wiki

Submission of material...



Discussion forums



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