

Are we Car Salesmen, Boy Scouts or Airline Pilots? Preparing for robust and humane research

norecopa.no/WC11-PREPARE

Adrian Smith

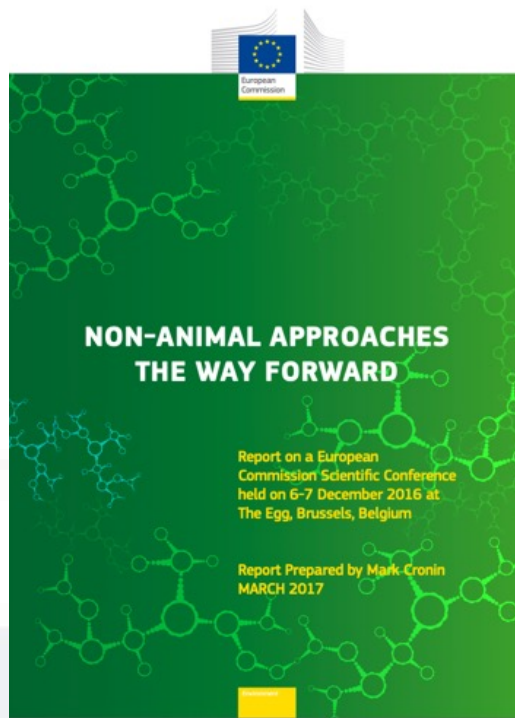
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<https://norecopa.no>

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

The evolution of the PREPARE planning guidelines:



- Discussions and learning material on courses in Laboratory Animal Science from 1986 onwards
- Development of planning guidelines – too obvious to publish!
- European Commission

15 minutes to present 30 years of work...

- The realisation that the community was asking for planning guidelines, not just reporting guidelines
- Published ahead of print in August 2017

norecopa.no/legislation/eu-directive-201063

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



The screenshot shows the top section of the norecopa.no website. It features a blue header with the norecopa logo (a stylized star) and the text 'norecopa'. To the right, there are language options for 'NORSK' and 'ENGLISH', and a search bar with a magnifying glass icon. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'About Norecopa', 'Alternatives', 'Databases & Guidelines', 'Education & training', 'Legislation', 'Meetings', 'More resources', 'News', 'PREPARE', 'Species', and 'Wiki'. A secondary menu lists various topics such as 'Anaesthesia and analgesia', 'Animal facilities', 'Animal welfare organisations', 'Blood sampling', 'Culture of care', 'Email discussion lists', 'Environmental enrichment', 'Ethics', 'Experimental design and reporting', 'Harm-Benefit Assessment', 'Health and safety', 'Health monitoring', 'Humane endpoints', 'Humane killing', 'Journals', 'Literature searches and systematic reviews', 'Organisations', and 'Suppliers'. A breadcrumb trail shows 'norecopa.no / More resources / Experimental design'. A large orange text box is overlaid on the page, containing statistics. At the bottom left, the title 'Design and reporting of animal experiments' is visible, followed by a paragraph of text and a 'Privacy - Terms' icon on the right.

approx. 8,500 webpages
300,000 hits annually
7-8 detailed newsletters per year

Design and reporting of animal experiments

This page supplements advice given in [Section 4 of the PREPARE guidelines](#). PREPARE covers all aspects of design (including animal and facility related issues).

Privacy - Terms

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Sales, Profit

Us: citations, impact factor, publication list



Integrity, Preparedness

Us: Research integrity, validity, reproducibility



Collaboration, Precision, Reliability, Safety

Us: the same!

PREPARE is all about quality assurance...



*'Our long experience and modern coffee machines
are your **guarantee of quality**' ??*

Two frustrations

"We can solve the reproducibility crisis by

- courses in "Experimental Design" that focus primarily on the "mathematical" aspects (e.g. randomisation, experimental units, blinding, statistical methods)
- **better reporting"**





Reporting guidelines are not new...

e.g.

- Guidelines for specification of animals and husbandry methods when reporting the results of animal experiments, **1985** (GV-SOLAS)
- Reporting animal use in scientific papers, 1997 (Smith *et al.*)
- Animal definition: a necessity for the validity of animal experiments? 2000 (Öbrink & Reh binder)
- Guidelines for reporting the results of experiments on fish, 2000 (Smith & Brattelid)
- ARRIVE Guidelines, 2010 (Kilkenny *et al.*)
- Gold Standard Publication Checklist (GSPC), 2010 (SYRCLE)
- Institute for Laboratory Animal Research, 2011 (NRC)
- Instructions to authors, in many journals
- ARRIVE 2.0 Guidelines, 2019 (Percie du Sert *et al.*)



Reporting

Planning

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

Perspective | Open Access | Published: 10 January 2017

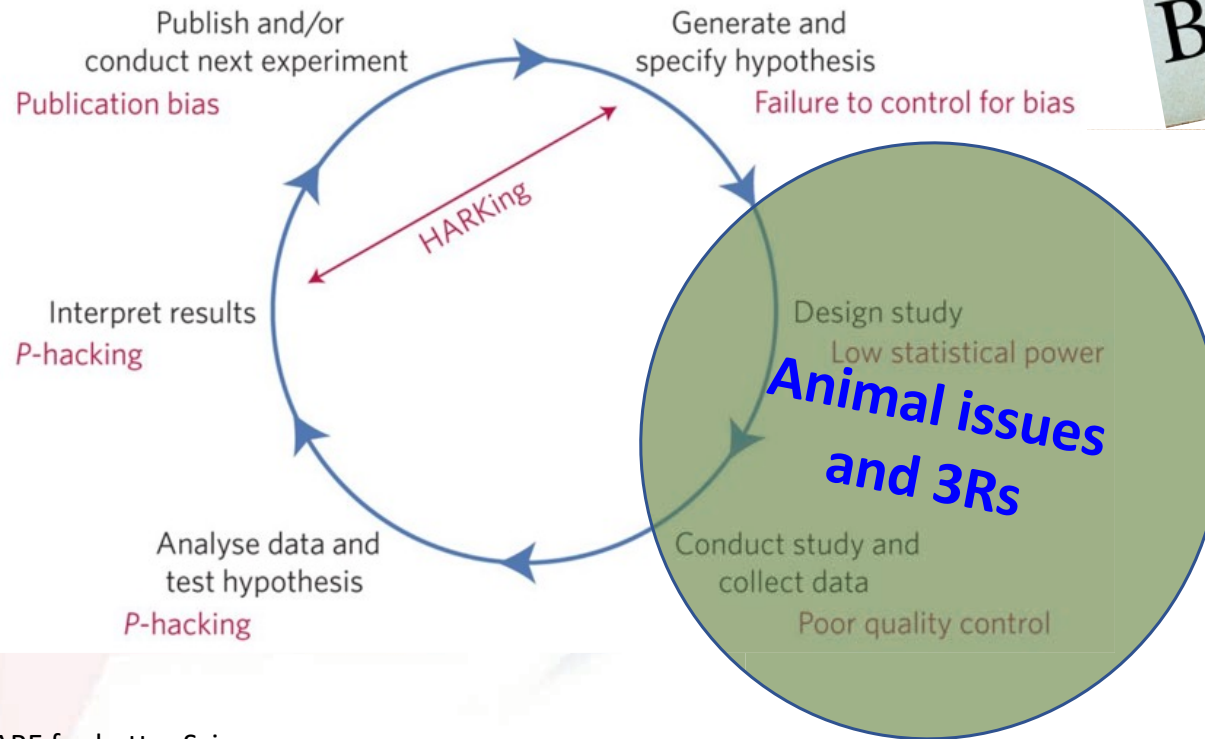
A manifesto for reproducible science

Marcus R. Munafò , Brian A. Nosek, Dorothy V. M. Bishop, Katherine S. Button, Christopher D. Chambers, Nathalie Percie du Sert, Uri Simonsohn, Eric-Jan Wagenmakers, Jennifer J. Wa

Nature Human Behaviour 1, Artic

33k Accesses | 518 Citations | From: A manifesto for reproducible science

Figure 1: Threats to reproducible science.



1994:

Neglected Factors in Pharmacology and Neuroscience Research: Biopharmaceutics, Animal Characteristics, Maintenance, Testing Conditions

By Claassen, Volkert

Record number: 13335 (legacy id: 6153)

[The objective of this book](#) is to indicate those variables which in general may need a better control. Examples, gathered from the literature, are presented to illustrate the impact that those neglected variables may have on various characteristics. The book presents a series of representative studies from a broad field of interest so that insight can be obtained about the potential effects of these parameters in experimental outcomes. In this way, an impetus should be given to the critical consideration of test design and limitations of conclusions from experimental results. In part, the book is written as a reaction to frustrations endured during pharmacological research of many years' standing, and therefore the choice of examples from the literature is largely related to this discipline. As pharmacological research is to a large extent based on the other life sciences, this volume may be of interest to a much broader audience. This may certainly be the case for pharmacokineticists and toxicologists for whom drugs are the main object of study. This book may also help to improve test designs for biochemists and physiologists, not only when using drugs as tools in their experiments, but also to improve generally the control of animal characteristics and test conditions. This book is Volume 12 in a series entitled *Techniques in the Behavioral and Neural Sciences*.

Comments & References: First Edition. 496 pages. Paperback. A review is available in [Laboratory Animals](#), April 1996, Volume 30 (2).



Review:

'This book is essential reading for anybody that wishes to take the problem of experimental variability seriously. There are no magic cures offered for experimental problems, but there are many explanations offered within this book. A worthwhile addition to any library.'

norecopa.no/textbase/neglected-factors-in-pharmacology-and-neuroscience-research-biopharmaceutics-animal-characteristics-maintenance-testing-conditions



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Group size
Power
Bias
HARKing
p-hacking



Genotype
Microbiome
Transport
Social hierarchy
Acclimation
Environment
Procedures

Variability of response
Unreliable and invalid data
Poor replicability

Contingent suffering
Procedural suffering
Poor welfare

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Aviation and Animal Research: Human Factors



A Pilot's Perspective
By Jake Hannabuss

Accident Rate for commercial flights is
one fatal accident per 16 million flights



How do others achieve reproducibility?



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



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...and precision in a variable environment?



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10-15 checklists even on short routine flights



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Checklists

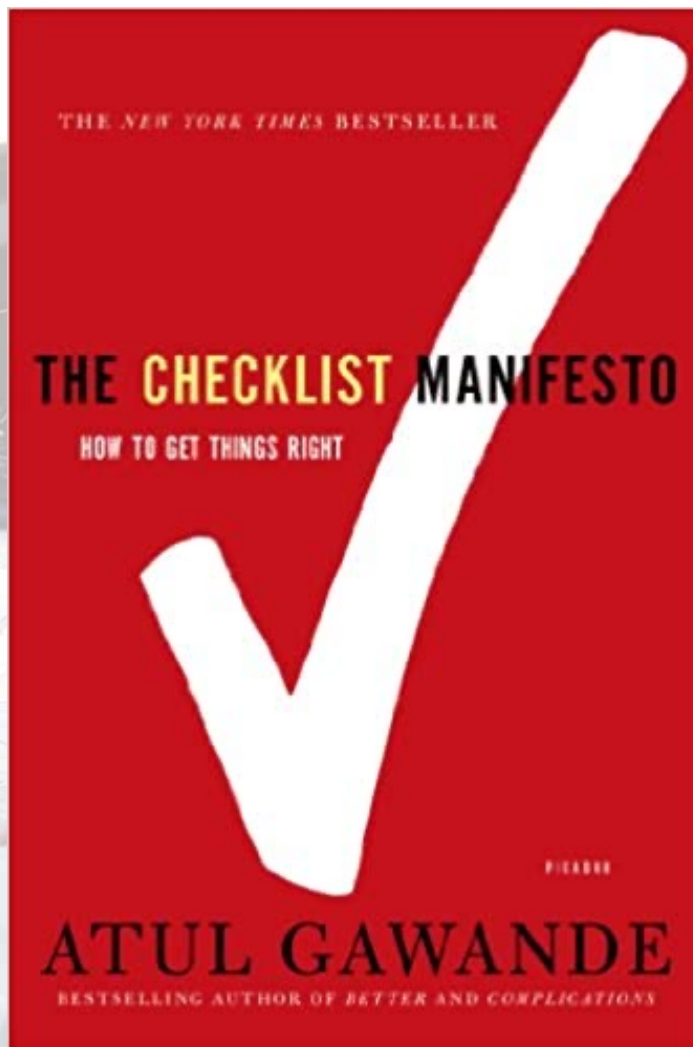
- Reduce risk of **forgetting** to carry out vital actions
- Ensure checks are carried out in the **correct sequence**
- Encourage **cooperation** and **cross-checking** between crew members
- Make sure that everyone is "**on the same page**"

Too late to read the checklists when you have ARRIVED!



colourbox.com

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amazon.com/gp/product/0312430000



Surgical Safety Checklist



Before induction of anaesthesia

(with at least nurse and anaesthetist)

- Has the patient confirmed his/her identity, site, procedure, and consent?**
 Yes
- Is the site marked?**
 Yes
 Not applicable
- Is the anaesthesia machine and medication check complete?**
 Yes
- Is the pulse oximeter on the patient and functioning?**
 Yes
- Does the patient have a:**
- Known allergy?**
 No
 Yes
- Difficult airway or aspiration risk?**
 No
 Yes, and equipment/assistance available
- Risk of >500ml blood loss (7ml/kg in children)?**
 No
 Yes, and two IVs/central access and fluids planned

Before skin incision

(with nurse, anaesthetist and surgeon)

- Confirm all team members have introduced themselves by name and role.**
- Confirm the patient's name, procedure, and where the incision will be made.**
- Has antibiotic prophylaxis been given within the last 60 minutes?**
 Yes
 Not applicable
- Anticipated Critical Events**
- To Surgeon:**
 What are the critical or non-routine steps?
 How long will the case take?
 What is the anticipated blood loss?
- To Anaesthetist:**
 Are there any patient-specific concerns?
- To Nursing Team:**
 Has sterility (including indicator results) been confirmed?
 Are there equipment issues or any concerns?
- Is essential imaging displayed?**
 Yes
 Not applicable

Before patient leaves operating room

(with nurse, anaesthetist and surgeon)

- Nurse Verbally Confirms:**
- The name of the procedure
- Completion of instrument, sponge and needle counts
- Specimen labelling (read specimen labels aloud, including patient name)
- Whether there are any equipment problems to be addressed
- To Surgeon, Anaesthetist and Nurse:**
- What are the key concerns for recovery and management of this patient?

This checklist is not intended to be comprehensive. Additions and modifications to fit local practice are encouraged.

Revised 1 / 2009

© WHO, 2009

who.int/patientsafety/topics/safe-surgery/checklist/en



Original Article

PREPARE: guidelines for planning animal research and testing

Adrian J Smith¹, R Eddie Clutton², Elliot Lilley³, Kristine E Aa Hansen⁴ and Trond Brattelid⁵

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 Norecoba website, with links to guidelines for animal research and testing, at <https://norecoba.no/PREPARE>.

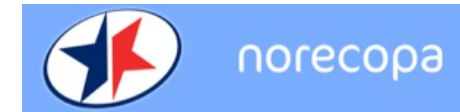
Keywords
guidelines, planning, design, animal experiments, animal research

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

Laboratory Animals
0311-7
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DOI: 10.1177/0023677217724823
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SAGE

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Acknowledgements

All those who contributed to the development of PREPARE, and in particular the co-authors:

Eddie Clutton, Elliot Lilley, Kristine Hansen & Trond Brattelid
the responsibility for this presentation is mine alone

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 19,000 downloads from the journal website so far

PREPARE:

Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence

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

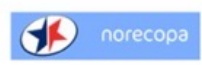
9. Test substances and procedures
10. Experimental animals
11. Quarantine and health monitoring
12. Housing and husbandry
13. Experimental procedures
14. Humane killing, release, reuse or rehoming
15. Necropsy

Maybe the study
should not go ahead

Systematic review of
published research?



PREPARE



The PREPARE Guidelines Checklist

Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence

Adrian J. Smith¹, R. Eddie Clutton², Elliot Lilley³, Kristine E. As. Hansen⁴ & Trond Brattelid⁵
¹Norecopa, c/o Norwegian Veterinary Institute, P.O. Box 750 Sentrum, 0106 Oslo, Norway; ²Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Easter Bush, Midlothian, EH25 9RG, U.K.; ³Research Animals Department, Science Group, RSPCA, Wiberforce Way, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 9RS, U.K.; ⁴Section of Experimental Biomedicine, Department of Production Animal Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, P.O. Box #140 Dep., 0033 Oslo, Norway; ⁵Division for Research Management and External Funding, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, 5020 Bergen, Norway.

PREPARE[®] consists of planning guidelines which are complementary to reporting guidelines such as ARRIVE[®]. 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 some topics in the checklist can be adapted to meet special needs, such as field studies. PREPARE includes guidance on facilities, since in-house experiments are dependent upon their quality. The full version of the guideline is available on the norecopa 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.

Topic	Recommendation
(A) Formulation of the study	
1. Literature searches	<input type="checkbox"/> Form a clear hypothesis, with primary and secondary outcomes. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the use of systematic reviews. <input type="checkbox"/> Identify upon databases and information specialists to be consulted, and construct search terms. <input type="checkbox"/> Assess the relevance of the species to be used, its biology and suitability to answer the experimental questions with the least suffering, and to welfare needs. <input type="checkbox"/> Assess the reproducibility and translatability of the project.
2. Legal issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider how the research is affected by relevant legislation for animal research and other areas such as animal transport, occupational health and safety. <input type="checkbox"/> Locate relevant guidance documents for the project.
3. Ethical issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider the ethical aspects of the project, good sense, and the potential for harm to the animals. <input type="checkbox"/> Perform a harm-benefit assessment and justify any likely animal harm. <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss the learning objectives, if the animal use is for educational or training purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid a merely descriptive approach to the project. <input type="checkbox"/> Define objective, easily measurable and unequivocal humane endpoints. <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss the justification, if any, for death as an end-point.
4. Experimental design and statistical analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider pilot studies, statistical power and significance levels. <input type="checkbox"/> Define the experimental unit and decide upon animal numbers. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose methods of randomisation, prevent observer bias, and decide upon inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Three Rs!

Let us know if you would like another language!

Topic	Recommendation
(B) Dialogue between scientists and the animal facility	
5. Objectives and timescale, funding and division of labour	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrange meetings with all relevant staff when early plans for the project exist. <input type="checkbox"/> Construct an approximate timescale for the project, indicating the need for assistance with preparation, animal care, procedures and waste disposal/decontamination. <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss and disclose all expected and potential costs. <input type="checkbox"/> Construct a detailed plan for division of labour and expenses at all stages of the study.
6. Facility selection and staffing	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a physical inspection of the facilities, to evaluate building and equipment standards and needs. <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss staffing levels at times of extra risk. <input type="checkbox"/> Assess the current competence of staff members and the need for further education or training prior to the study.
7. Risk assessment and decontamination	<input type="checkbox"/> Perform a risk assessment, in collaboration with the animal facility, for all persons and animals affected directly or indirectly by the study. <input type="checkbox"/> Assess, and if necessary produce, specific guidance for all stages of the project. <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide as much information as possible about test substances. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the feasibility and validity of test procedures and the skills needed to perform them.
10. Experimental animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Decide upon the characteristics of the animals that are essential for the study and for reporting. <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid generation of surplus animals.
11. Quarantine and health monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Discuss the animals' health and welfare needs.
12. Procedures for capture, immobilisation, marking, and release or rehoming	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop refined procedures for capture, immobilisation, marking, and release or rehoming. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop refined procedures for substance administration, sampling, sedation and anaesthesia, surgery and other techniques.
14. Humane killing, release, reuse or rehoming	<input type="checkbox"/> Consult relevant legislation and guidelines well in advance of the study. <input type="checkbox"/> Define primary and emergency methods for humane killing. <input type="checkbox"/> Assess the competence of those who may have to perform these tasks.
15. Necropsy	<input type="checkbox"/> 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: 10.1177/002367721724423.
 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](https://twitter.com/norecopa)

PREPARE:

Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence

PREPARE covers 15 topics:

Formulation of the study

1. Literature searches
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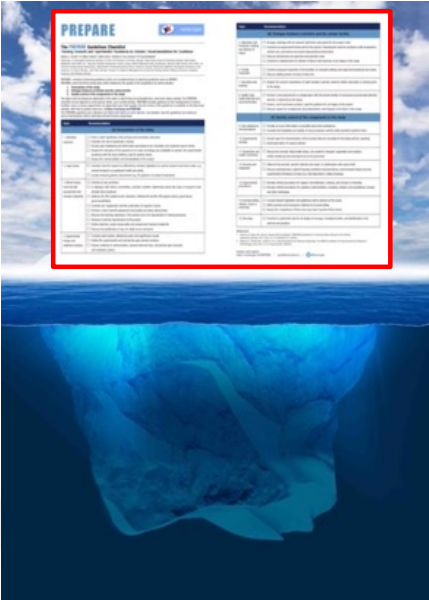
Methods

9. Test substances and procedures
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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

In addition to the checklist, much more information is available on:

norecopa.no/PREPARE



PREPARE
PREPARE checklist
Comparison with ARRIVE
Endorsements
Film
1-Literature searches ▼
2-Legal issues ▼
3-Ethical issues, ▼

PREPARE

The PREPARE Guidelines, and this section of the Norecopa website, have been developed with the involvement and support of the [RSPCA](#).



As part of ongoing efforts to reduce waste, promote animal alternatives (all [the three Rs](#)), and increase the reproducibility of research and testing, a group of experts from the UK and Norway, led by Norecopa, has produced a set of guidelines for **planning** experiments:

PREPARE (*Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence*)

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- 3-Ethical issues, harm-benefit assessment and humane endpoints
 - 3a Construct a lay summary.
 - 3b In dialogue with ethics committees, consider whether statements about this type of research have already been produced.
 - 3c Address the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) and the 3Ss (Good Science, Good Sense, Good Sensibilities).
- 4-Experimental design and statistical analysis

- 5. Have the experiments been carried out before, and is any repetition justifiable?
- 6. What [approaches to reduce distress](#) have been considered?

3a Construct a lay summary.

General principles **For fish researchers**

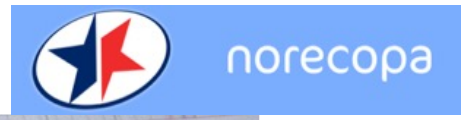
- 1. Have national or local research ethics committees already produced statements relevant to the research being planned? Consideration should also be paid to the broader context of the research. For example, research directed at increasing the productivity of farming at the expense of (or without improving) individual animal welfare, or wildlife research whose primary aim is population management.

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

- 2. Will any advances in this research be published, or will the results only index the title and abstract? Will the results be rejected?
- 3. Have the Three S's ([Good Science, Good Sense and Good Sensibilities](#)) been addressed? Sufficient time should be allocated to this point, since two of the three S's are highly subjective, but equally important. The use of commonsense and critical anthropomorphism are justifiably part of the work to assess the impact of research on animals, not least when a scientific evidence base does not exist.
- 4. Does the proposed study have a clear rationale and scientific relevance, and what will be the next step if the hypothesis is supported or rejected?
- 5. Have the experiments been carried out before and is any repetition justifiable?
- 6. What [approaches to reduce distress](#) have been considered?
- 7. Will the project undergo [pre-registration](#) and will negative results be published, to avoid publication bias?

Many more [links to resources on ethics are available here](#). Details about [pre-registration of animal studies and reporting of critical incidents](#) are to be found in the section on [Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis](#).

Harm-Benefit Assessment



A simple but effective Master Plan



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A contract between the animal facility and the research group

The division of labour and responsibilities

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			

☰

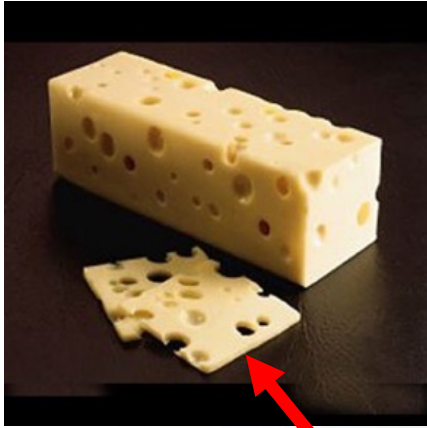
Program Description

- A. Animal Care and Use Program
- B. Animal environment, Housing and Management
- C. Veterinary Care
- D. Physical plant

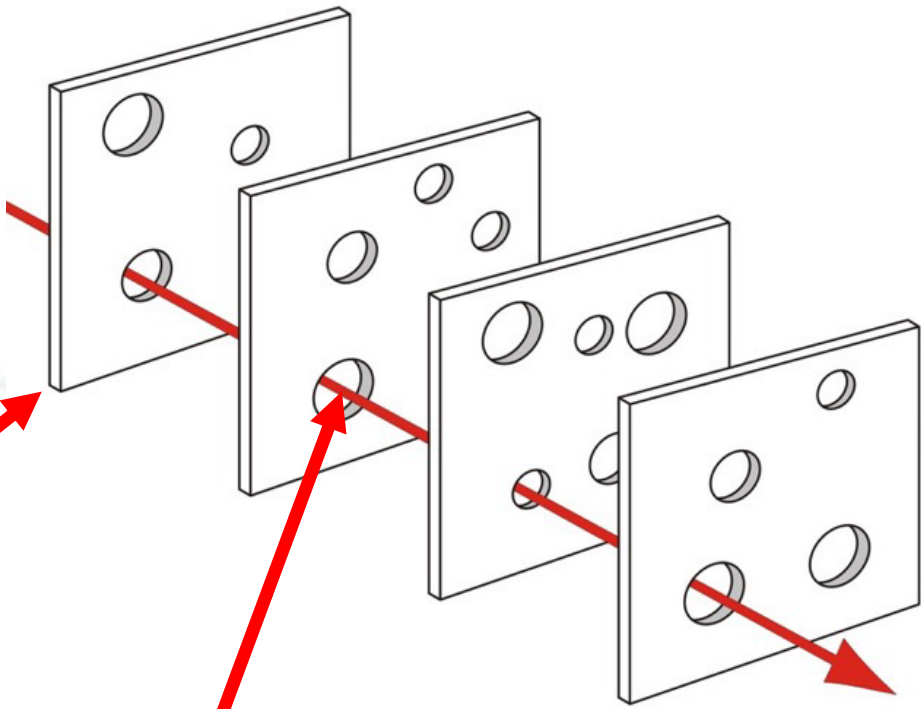
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Threat and Error Management



eaugallecheese.com/Swiss-cheese



"Layer of defence"
or redundancy

Weakness / hazard

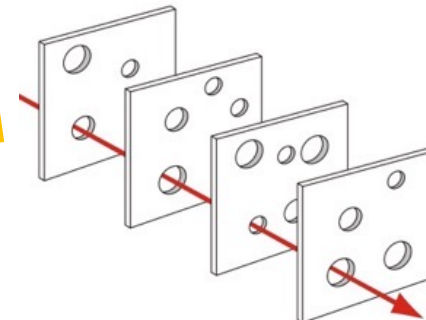
Loss

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
 - allergic and anaphylactic reactions
 - bites
 - 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

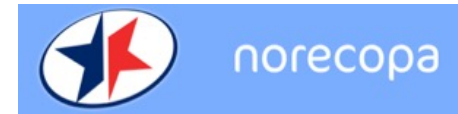
These need to be revised or supplemented in the light of Covid-19



Temporary staff at weekends and holidays

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

Good advice is emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic



Suggested considerations for establishment working under ASPA during the COVID19 lock-down

CATEGORY		CONSIDERATIONS/SUGGESTIONS
PERSONNEL Provide 'essential worker' letter to show authorities, include home address. Consider whether company/photo I.d. would be helpful All personnel must prioritise their health and the health of others by wearing suitable PPE and by observing social distancing as advised by the government Support mental health Consider mindfulness apps, Convert empty animal room into a relaxation/yoga room (online yoga classes).	ANIMAL TECHNICIANS	Run 2 or more teams if possible to lower the risk of transmission (each team is treated as 'household') to the wider team. Examples of how onsite teams might be run include alternate days, 2 days on 2 days off and utilising an early shift / a late shift to reduce contact and total staff in an area at any one time. If people are in isolation or have caring responsibilities they may (if well enough) be able to work offsite as part of a "virtual office" team Where teams can't be separated use full PPE/ RPE and have staggered entry/break/exit times or other means of avoiding people not in PPE. Physically segregate in unit if possible Review teams regularly – this may need to be daily in some situations Introduce regular and frequent routines for surface decontamination, paying particular attention to door handle/ door plates, taps and work surfaces. Clean with detergent / 70% isopropyl alcohol or similar Limit reliance on public transport methods. Accommodate parking where possible to allow individuals to travel by car
	RESEARCHERS	Ensure all alarm systems are checked regularly and are functional. Monitor, record and act on all alarms Review contingencies for critical system failure (e.g. HVAC) and have an action plan. Make sure all backup systems are fully functional and that sufficient spare parts are available and accessible DELIVERIES VETS required
ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE HOLDER	ANIMALS	Ensure all non-replaceable lines are cryopreserved Consider stopping breeding of lines that are frozen down and have been on "tick over" Breed only for colony management, i.e. minimum number of breeding pairs to maintain the health of the colony Avoid breeding animals with phenotype – maintain animals where homozygotes may be phenotypic as wild type x heterozygote crosses to avoid generation of homozygotes Genotype promptly in order to identify animals required for ongoing breeding and cull animals not required ASAP Consider outsourcing genotyping if internal facilities are closed REDUCE STOCK Do not start new work unless absolutely essential/ internal review has been performed that confirms that the work can be properly serviced Essential research work may continue if staffing levels allow it. A local decision making process which records decision making as to which projects may remain ongoing should be in place. Examples of what may be reasonable are COVID-19 work, aged animal work and work to complete studies There may be reasons for prioritising ongoing work with some species (e.g. NHPs) If the facilities allow, consolidate animals to one area, check light cycle, room temps & designation first Spread work evenly / reduce cleaning of cages – but not to extent that welfare could be compromised Re-assess stock levels / staff levels at least once per week Cull animals that are not going to be needed for colony management and cannot otherwise be used Avoid unnecessary movement of animals Prioritise the movement of animals to other facilities or establishments for contingency of valuable lines.
ENGINEERS	ACCESS	Check your facility/ies will be open – Provide a list of names requiring access. Check with security how and when essential staff will access Confirm how essential supplies and waste contractors will service the facility/ies SUPPLIES Stock up on diet, bedding, nesting materials, PPE, disinfectants and other essentials, aim for a minimum of 3 months Ensure there will be there be Liquid nitrogen / dry ice for cryopreserved stocks Have stocks of CO ₂ and sodium pentobarbitone and any other drugs as directed by the NVS ESTATES / ENGINEERS Check your contractors are working and get emergency contacts. Maintain a list of mobile numbers, available to everyone Consider if essential equipment will require servicing or repair. Ensure that you have a plan to enable this Will waste be being removed from site? – prepare an area for on-site storage if necessary RECORDS Record all difficult decisions taken. What/ when / why and any related evidence

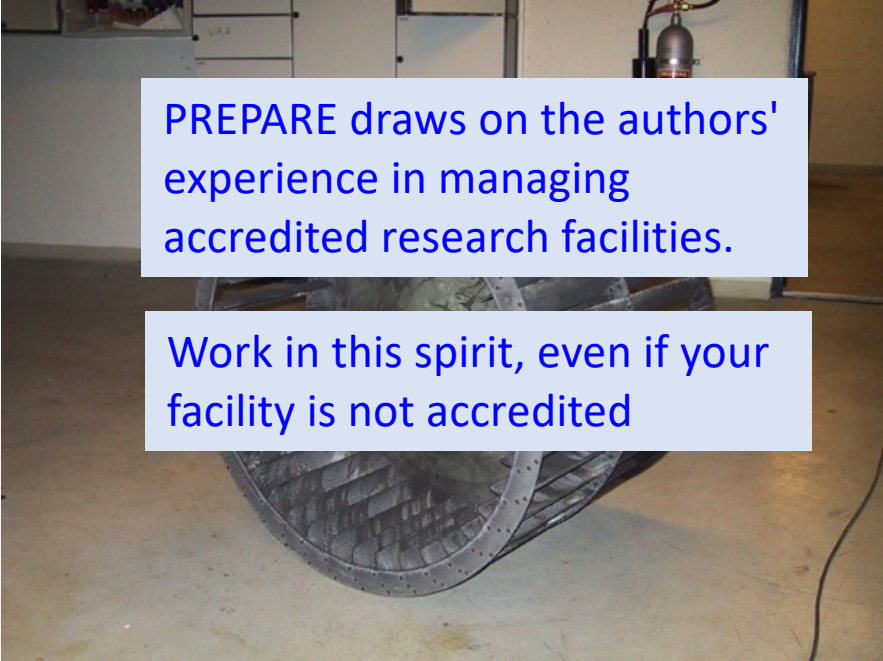
norecopa.no/be-prepared

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lava.uk.net/viewtopic.php?f=3&p=80

Contingency and redundancy

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



PREPARE draws on the authors' experience in managing accredited research facilities.

Work in this spirit, even if your facility is not accredited

Photo: NMBU



CIRS-LAS Portal

Critical incident reporting system in laboratory animal science

Refine - Reduce - Replace

What if things go wrong?

Detect
a critical
incident

Anonymous
report

CIRS-LAS.de

MUTUAL LEARNING from errors, near misses, critical or even adverse events occurring in the context of animal experimentation prevents unnecessary repetition of unsuccessful experiments

CRITICAL DISCUSSIONS on causes and approaches to solutions lead to an increase in animal welfare

OPEN DIALOGUE ensures transparency in laboratory animal science

We all
learn
from it!

Expert
analysis

Get involved!

vimeo.com/358069203 or norecopa.no/PREPARE/film
 3-minute cartoon film



Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

Our hopes for PREPARE

- Uptake on a voluntary basis
- Interest from
 - funders
 - animal care & use committees
 - regulators
 - institutions
 - animal facilities
- Early career scientists
- Principal investigators

Endorsement doesn't necessarily mean compliance...

norecopa.no/PREPARE/endorsements



norecopa

"We ARRIVED, because we were PREPARED"

- ✓ *Better Science*
- ✓ *Improved animal welfare*
- ✓ *Advancement of the 3Rs*
- ✓ *Safer working environment*

NO
BRAINER

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

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- Nordic Society Against Painful Experiments (NSMSD)
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- Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance (Dyrevernalliansen)
- Novo Nordisk
- Sanofi
- Scottish Accreditation Board (SAB)
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- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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(Monday 23 August Session S200, 3.30-5.30 p.m.)

Norecopa norecopa.no/WC11

Friday 27 August Session S113, 3.00-5.00 p.m.

Wildlife research norecopa.no/WC11-wildlife

Tuesday 31 August Session S301, 6.30-8.30 p.m.

The Refinement Wiki norecopa.no/WC11-wiki

Feedback

English-language newsletters

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