



Laws, regulations and guidelines What do we have and what do we need?

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Renate Johansen



The Animal Welfare Act

- National laws
- Differs in different countries
 - Some include fish (*e.g.* Norway)
 - Some do not include fish (*e.g.* USA)
- **The Norwegian Animal Welfare Act**
 - Revision started 2001, finished 2006
 - “Stortingsmelding nr. 12 (2002-2003) Om dyrehold og dyrevelferd”. Governmental report on care of animals.



The Animal Welfare Act, USA

- Fish are NOT included in the Welfare Act
- But all research, **including fish** experiments, funded by the U.S. government must follow *Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training* (PHS 1986) with following **guidelines** (NRC 1996)



The Norwegian Animal Welfare Act

- Fish are included
- *"Animals shall be treated well, and consideration shall be given to the **instinctive behaviour** and **natural needs** of animals, so that there is no risk of causing them **unnecessary suffering**"*
- 2 main regulations:
 - Regulation on animal experimentation (1996)
 - Norwegian Animal Research Authority (FDU)
 - Regulation relating to the operation of Aquaculture farms "Akvakulturdriftsforskriften" (Dec. 2004)
 - Norwegian Food Safety Authority (Mattilsynet)



European convention for the “Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other scientific purposes” (1986, ETS 123)

- Norway and other non-EU states have also signed this agreement
- Appendix A is being revised and will include fish
 - Species-specific provisions for fish (Rod Wootten) is in the background material
- Appendix B
 - Reports on the use of animals in research



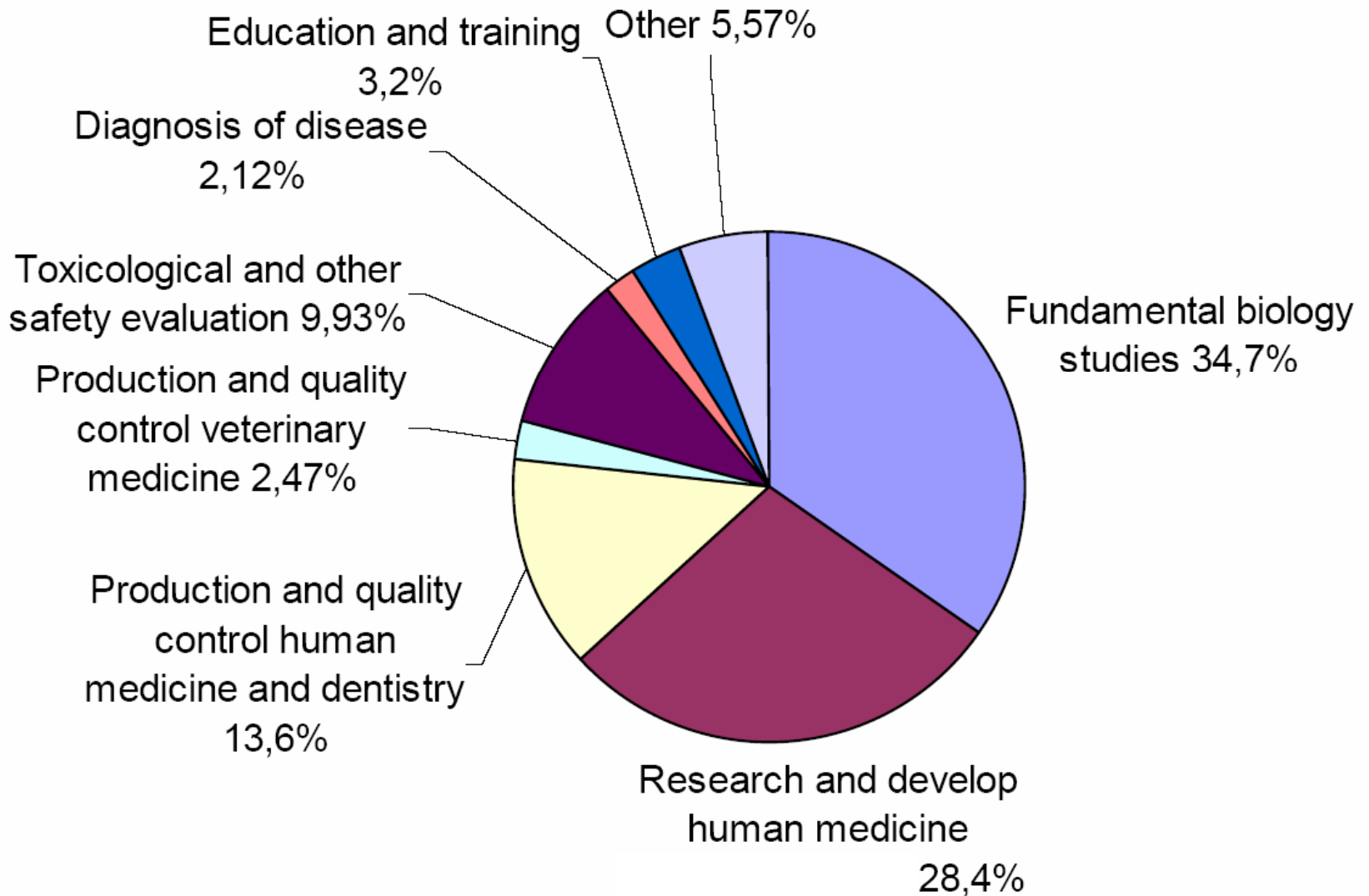
The EU-Directive (86/609/EEC)

- “The Council Directive 86/609/EEC of 24 November 1986 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States regarding the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes”
- **The EU-directive is also being revised**
- The EU member states have agreed on a reporting system for the statistical data of animals used in research
 - 8 tables of data that are directly comparable between states



Figure 2.1

Purposes of experiments





Guidelines

- **Different guidelines from different organisations**
 - Canadian guidelines (Gilly Griffin)
 - FELASA recommendations (rodents, pigs etc.)
 - Inspection of fish research facilities in the UK (Kathy Ryder)
 - The Fisheries Society of British Isles (FSBI)
 - Briefing paper on fish welfare (2002)
- **Do we have to follow guidelines?**
- **If we have too many regulations and guidelines the research may be moved to other parts of the world?**



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Thank you for your attention!

