Terms of Reference

Scand-LAS Working Group on
Recommendations for education and training for wildlife field research

Background
In several Scandinavian countries, research on wild animals (terrestrial and marine) constitute a significant proportion of animal experiments. This type of research is conducted in the animals' natural habitat under circumstances very different from laboratory animal research.

Article 23 in Directive 2010/63/EU contains general requirements for education and training for those involved in animal research. Annex V in the Directive, lists elements that should form the basis for member states requirements for education and training. However, some of these elements are primarily suitable for classical laboratory animal research, and less applicable for wildlife field research. Examples include breeding, genetics, husbandry, enrichment practices, etc.

The Education Framework Guidance document published by the EU Commission provides principles and criteria for education and training in animal research. The guidance document was developed to facilitate harmonisation and free movement of personnel in Europe, and contains detailed descriptions of modules with associated learning outcomes. However, except for a few of the core modules, most of the modules and learning outcomes are primarily directed and adapted to laboratory animal research.

High competence and skills are essential to ensure highest possible animal welfare outcome and research quality, and there is an urgent need to develop recommendations for education and training for those conducting wildlife field research.

The task of this Working group is to formulate recommendations for basic education and training for personnel that will conduct wildlife field research. Field research on the following groups of wild animals should be included: amphibians, reptiles, birds, and terrestrial and marine mammals.

The goal of the recommendations is to create a framework for education and training programs to assist course organizers, facilitate harmonisation, research cooperation and free movement of personnel within wildlife field research in Scandinavia and beyond.

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Tasks, proposed line of work:

The Working group shall:

- Write a detailed recommendation for harmonization of basic theoretical and practical education and training adapted for personnel conducting wildlife field research on the above mentioned groups of wild animals
- The recommendation should be a framework for education and training covering the above mentioned groups of wild animals (e.g. not species-specific)
- The recommendation should include proposed modules and learning outcomes and cover all the four EU-functions (A-D).
- The recommendations should be published in the Scandinavian Journal of Laboratory Animal Science

Composition of the working group

The working group will be composed of six persons. Scientists, veterinarians and technicians with a well-documented track-record on wildlife field research should be considered for this working group.

Budget

A total of 4000 Euro for telephone conferences and 1-2 face to face meetings.

Deadline

Two years after start.