

Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice: Appendix 8 – Specialist Exhibits, Elephants (2017). A4, 11 pages. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secretary-of-state-s-standards-of-modern-zoo-practice>.

References

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Harris M, Sherwin CM and Harris S 2008 *The welfare, housing and husbandry of elephants in UK zoos*. Report to Defra. http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=WC05007_7719_FRP.pdf

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European Commission reports on implementation of EU Directive 2010/63/EU on the use of animals in research

The European Directive 2010/63/EU adopted in 2010 updated and replaced the previous legislation that had been in place since 1986. This Report, and accompanying staff working document, meet the requirement of Article 58 of the 2010 Directive for a review of the Directive by 10th November 2017.

The aim of the review was to assess how well the Directive's objectives had been achieved, whether it is fit for purpose or whether it needs updating given the latest scientific and ethical developments. However, whilst the Directive came into effect on 1 January 2013, it took until 2015 before the last national standards were developed. Moreover, the husbandry standards only came into force in January 2017. This Report can, therefore, be seen as only a very preliminary assessment. The review was largely carried out through a consultation with stakeholders, and via a public consultation, although several reports and opinions were also taken into account.

The Report indicates that much of the implementation seems to have gone well and that the Directive is making progress in achieving its aims of advancing the 3Rs in member states by creating a level playing field; and improving transparency to the public. Animal welfare bodies were also felt to be a useful contribution to improving animal care and husbandry. However, in some areas, the Commission felt it was too soon to evaluate the Directive. For example, national committees, a requirement of the legislation, are still feeling their way in many countries. Inspection data will also not be available from Member States before late 2018 and it is not yet clear to what extent publication of non-technical project summaries and revised annual statistical data will contribute towards improved transparency. It is also considered too soon to assess the impact of the Directive on the promotion and uptake of non-animal alternatives in research.

The Report concludes that the current deadline of November 22 after which only non-human primates that are the offspring

of animals which have been bred in captivity (F2/F2+), or that are sourced from self-sustaining colonies will be allowed to be used in research is still appropriate (this refers mainly to the cynomolgus or long-tailed macaque: marmosets have been required to be F2/F2+ since January 2013).

Issues where further work is needed, include harmonisation of guidance on project applications and measures to streamline assessment and authorisation. Information is also needed on housing and care of cephalopods and methods for their euthanasia. With respect to the Directive's scope, there were no major issues, but it was felt that, for better harmonisation, guidance is needed on minimum threshold of severity which triggers the Act for a procedure.

Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions in Accordance with Article 58 of Directive 2010/63/EU on the Protection of Animals used for Scientific Purposes (SWD[2017] 353 final) (November 2017). A4, 10 pages. Available from <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2017/EN/COM-2017-631-FI-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>.

Commission Staff Working Document Accompanying the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (SWD[2017] 353) 10.11.2017 Final (November 2017). Available from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1510252227435&uri=SWD:2017:353:FIN>.

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First EU reference centre for animal welfare

Wageningen Livestock Research (The Netherlands), the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (Germany) and the Department of Animal Science at Aarhus University (Denmark) have together been selected as the first European Union (EU) Reference Centre for Animal Welfare.

The centre will provide scientific and technical expertise to support the activities of the Commission and EU Member States and pig welfare will be the focus of this first centre.

The centre has been established in accordance with Articles 95 and 96 of the Official Controls Regulation, which also lays out further information on how EU Reference Centres are selected and what their responsibilities and tasks will be. The designation of the first Reference Centre for Animal Welfare will be reviewed in five years time.

EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (5 March 2018). European Commission, Brussels, Belgium. Further information available at: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/eu-ref-centre_en.

Official Controls Regulation (15 March 2017). Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and Council of the European Union of 15 March 2017, on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed laws, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products. Further information available online at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>.

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