



Does Norway need ecopa?

Do we need a National Consensus Platform in Norway?

What are we doing in Norway?

Has it necessarily been a disadvantage that we don't have a platform yet?

The fact that ecopa exists and that 13 countries are members has been a useful lobbying tool!

Political pressure in connection with the national budget for 2007.



What's special about Norway?

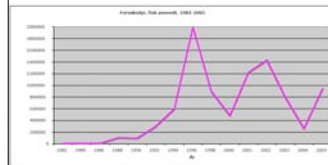
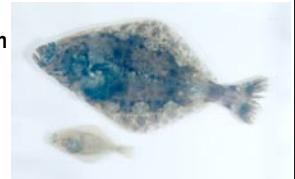
- over 60 facilities in a long country
- a lot of field research, uncontrolled conditions
- 90% of research animals are fish
- few national guidelines for animal research
- too few resources to the inspectorate

Testing, testing, testing ...

It is just as important to focus on **Reduction** and **Refinement**

Many challenges in fish research

- availability of standardised fish
- health and welfare
- pain perception
- refinement of procedures



- normal mortality
- low bambi factor
- definitions, statistics

Comparative medicine

Farmed salmon



Farmed salmon



Zebra fish



Photo: ESA

Photo: ESA

Government Report no. 12 (2002-2003)

- "The Ministry will contribute to the formation of **national platform, a centre of competence**, for alternatives to the use of animals in research..."
- In 2003 the parliamentary committee that presented this Report asked the Government to: "follow up the formation of a National Platform with a **research and development fund on the lines of the Swedish model**."

Temporary platform, 2004-06

- Prepare the ground for a permanent platform
- Identify areas within the 3Rs needing attention in Norway
- Collect and produce guidelines for animal research
- "Harmonisation of the Care & Use of Fish in Research", May 2005
- Platform conference, October 2006
- Total budget of 200,000 euros + VAT plus substantial support from the Veterinary School in Oslo



Suggested model for a permanent platform:

- Registered as a Foundation with NOK 100.000,- in capital. Board of 8 persons, two from each stakeholder.
- A Council consisting of individual and corporate members from the four stakeholder sectors.
- A permanent secretariat for the platform: **1 Senior Advisor + 1/2 time secretary.**
- An Interim board until the Council has chosen the permanent members.
- An R & D fund for the three Rs, largely financed by the State.

The two Ministries involved:

**Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Ministry of Fiskerier and Coastal Affairs**

Both state that they will establish a permanent National Platform for Alternatives in 2007

But

- As yet we know nothing about the size of the budget
- It is unlikely that they will finance a R&D Fund in 2007



The use of databases, information centres and guidelines when planning research that may involve animals

[Text from the article, partially obscured]

Animal Welfare, 2005, 14: 347-359
<http://www.ufaw.org.uk/journal/Animal%20welfare.htm>

Guidelines for health and welfare monitoring of fish used in research

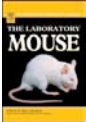
[Text from the article, partially obscured]


Laboratory Animals, 2006, 40: 323-340
<http://www.lal.org.uk/pdffiles/GuidelinesFish.pdf>

<http://oslovet.veths.no>


- About us
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- Guided Tour
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- National Platform
- Databases
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 - Personnel
 - Publications
 - Sponsors

- Guidelines for the three Rs when planning and reporting animal research
- Information on LAS to the public (including a guided tour in 3 languages)
- Information on the National Consensus Platform
- The NORINA database
- The TextBase database
- Overview of other databases within the three Rs
- Resources on the care & use of fish in research
- Educational material within LAS for researchers & technicians (compendia, films)






Refinement of techniques



<http://oslovet.veths.no>



Does Norway need ecopa?
Yes, a powerful lobbying tool and source of ideas on how to run a national programme for the 3Rs

Do we need a National Consensus Platform in Norway?
Yes, to identify areas for improvement and implement work on the 3Rs

What are we doing in Norway?
Well, we haven't gone into hibernation, despite observer status only!