PLEASE CIRCULATE TO ALL LICENCE HOLDERS AND OTHER ROLE-HOLDERS IN YOUR ESTABLISHMENT

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What’s new?

Compliance Policy

A new document on ASRU’s Compliance Policy has been finalised and has been published on our website. It explains how ASRU identifies and investigates potential incidents of non-compliance and decides on appropriate and proportionate measures and remedies aimed to minimise the risk of recurrence.

The policy can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-testing-and-research-compliance-with-aspa

Updated annotated Project Licence Application Form

Last year we published an annotated project licence application form to assist all those applying for a licence. Following feedback from several groups of stakeholders this has been improved and the updated version is now available on our website. It explains what is required in each box of the form. Failure to adhere to this guidance could significantly increase the time taken to grant a licence and could result in a rejection of the application.

The updated annotated Project Licence Application Form can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-testing-and-research-improve-your-
Return of Procedures and Extra Data Collection for 2017

We have sent out the lists of project licences that require a Return of Procedures form to be submitted. All returns are due by 31st January 2018. Please let us know if you have not received your list.

As you should all know, in addition to the normal end of year Return of Procedures data collection, we will be collecting additional data from each establishment for 2017. This data will form one return for each establishment, and should be submitted by the same date as the normal end of year return of procedure data (31st January 2018).

There are three tables on the form that need to be completed. The first refers to the number of animals bred for procedures, but not used. The second refers to details of tissue sampling methods used for genotyping of GA animals, and the third regards information on efforts being made to refine tissue sampling techniques for genotyping at your establishment.

The establishment return form can be found on our website (previously only a draft form was provided), alongside guidance to help you complete it. If you have any queries regarding the extra data collection please reply to this email.

The Return of Procedures form, extra data collection form and all guidance notes are available on a new page on our website: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-testing-and-research-annual-returns

Retrospective Assessments

Since 1st January 2013, retrospective assessment requirements have been applied to project licences which entail the use of non-human primates, dogs, cats and equidae, the use of procedures classified as severe, endangered animals or for the purpose of education and training.

ASRU has developed a preliminary process which it intends to use from January 1st 2018. An additional communication that outlines the process and some key points to help establishments undertake their part in gathering the information required for the Secretary of State to complete the Assessment will be circulated early in the New Year.

Website Improvements

Our last newsletter provided an update on steps being taken to improve the layout and content of ASRU’s website making it easier for users to find what they are looking for.

The aim is to remove large blocks of text/documents from the main page and replace with clear headings. Under each heading there will be links to sub pages where further guidance and documents can be found. The main changes are a separate page for technical advice aimed at licence holders and separate pages for the annual returns.
Non-technical summaries

The non-technical summaries for project licences granted in 2016 are now on our website: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/non-technicalsummaries-granted-in-2016

Since 2014 we have been publishing them in volumes according to the primary purpose of the project. The aim of this was to make them more user-friendly for anyone interested in reading them, including the public and those working in the area e.g. research scientists. The ‘search’ facility on gov.uk does not always make it easy for people to find what they want.

Publishing them by scientific purpose is a very time consuming process as each project must be categorised before compiling all the different volumes and this does delay publication. Therefore we would like to do a survey to ask all potential readers of non-technical summaries whether they have a preference for how they are published. Please can you reply to this email and answer the following:

1. Does categorising by primary purpose assist the reader? Please give your reasons.
2. Would you prefer it if they were published in date order (not by scientific purpose) so that they can be published quicker during the year?
3. If, instead of categorising into 30+ purposes, they were just categorised by the nine overall purposes that the project licence holder is required to specify in their application would this be sufficient to assist the reader e.g. basic research, translational or applied research, preservation of species etc.

The responses to this survey will inform how we publish the non-technical summaries for projects granted in 2017 onwards.

Feedback & Queries

If you have any questions or feedback about anything in this newsletter please email ASRUBusiness@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

News and Messages from other organisations

The Learning Curve (Development) Ltd

The Learning Curve (Development) Ltd presents a one-day, fully interactive NIO workshop on 23rd February 2018 in London. Attendees will gain a better understanding of their role and responsibilities, develop processes for data retrieval and information gathering, and develop effective communication strategies using a variety of media. Both new and experienced NIOs will benefit from this workshop.
Contact info@learningcurvedevelopment.co.uk for further information and booking forms or else refer to the website http://www.learningcurvedevelopment.co.uk/workshops/named-persons-workshops/named-information-officer-nio/