

# Karolinska Institutet Animal Welfare Body

## Annual report 2017

### Background

The Karolinska Institutet (KI) is the leading medical University in Sweden. Its mission is to improve human health and to find new strategies to curb human diseases.

At the same time when research strategies and experimental laboratory animal work is performed on laboratory animals there is an obligation to treat animals in the best possible way both regarding housing conditions and experimental conditions according to the legislation in Sweden. The Animal Welfare Act 1988:534, The Animal Welfare Ordinance 1988:539 and The Swedish Board of Agriculture's Regulations and General Advice on experimental animals, SJVFS 2015:38 Saknr L150.

Since 2013 the regulations in Sweden in this area are guided by the Directive 2010/63/EU on Protection of Animals used for Scientific purposes which was implemented into the Swedish legislation in 2012. In the Swedish legislation as well as in the Directive the "Animal Welfare Body" has to be set up at each organization that deals with experimental and laboratory animal science work. The Animal Welfare Body has to be set up according to the Swedish legislation in L150, chapter 5.

At Karolinska Institutet the AWB has been in place for 5 years (since 2013), under the dean of the Board of Research. Currently and during 2017 the AWB consists of 14 delegates where the 3R officer at Comparative medicine (CM) has acted as the chair.

### Meetings and working structure

11 meetings have been held from which half were general meetings and half more working meetings according to different established working groups. There are currently eight working groups within the AWB. Each group consists of 2-4 members where one of the group members is responsible for arranging meetings.

Large animal and primate group

SOP group

Replacement group

Refinement and Reduction group

Communication group

Revision of L150 group

Breeding animal group

Aquatic animal group

The AWB has reported back to CM viewpoints on three SOPs and viewpoints on the revision of L150. The communication group applied for a grant from Torvald and Britta Gahlins Stiftelsen foundation (and was awarded a grant of 53 000 kr) to set up, distribute and evaluate a Survey regarding "Researchers attitude and understanding regarding the 3Rs at Karolinska Institutet". This is now under progress and will be supplied to the community early 2018.

The replacement group gave an internal seminar on replacement. The refinement group set up two advices to be taken of the board. One was decided in 2017 Dnr 1-1077/2017. Implementation of the 3Rs in research, "Prepare + Arrive + Experimental Design Assistant (EDA) and the other one is still under revision. Planning to be presented Q1 2018.

The refinement group, came also up with a proposal to plan for a refinement 3R day at KI autumn 2018.

The AWB held a half day meeting for the internal colleges at KI and the AWB at the Karolinska University Hospital site on the 15th of June 2017. The aim is to arrange similar meetings twice a year. At this meeting three major players within the area were invited for presentations and discussion.

- The new established 3R Center at the Board of Agriculture and the contact to the user community- Karen Erlbacher, Swedish 3R Center, Board of Agriculture.
- Research with experimental animals at KI. Anders Gustafsson, Dean of Research at KI.
- 3R as a part of the infrastructure investment at KI – Stefan Eriksson, Vice Dean of Infrastructure at KI.

The AWB at KI participated also in the national AWB meeting held by the Swedish National Committee at KI in the spring of 2017.

### Goals for 2018

Is to develop the AWB at KI in its responsible task. Especially with the new task according to the new and upcoming legislation (L150) which will be in place around summer 2018. This will give the AWB a new task which requires a new position for the body in the line management under the licensee. This will also give the AWB a more visible platform to act from at KI.

Stockholm the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2018

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