

The importance of animal welfare officers and the commission according to article 15 of the German animal welfare act regarding humane endpoints

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animal welfare officer commission of article 15



- How are they established in the animal welfare act?
- What are their tasks?
- What are their duties?
- How can they best use their influence?

The animal welfare officer



- Heads of institutions, where experiments are conducted on vertebrates, shall appoint one or more animal welfare officers and notify each appointment to the competent authority.
- Only persons who have completed university studies of veterinary medicine, medicine or biology (specializing in zoology) may be appointed as animal welfare officer. They must possess the expertise and reliability needed to discharge their task. In individual cases the competent authority may grant exemptions from the first sentence.

The animal welfare officer shall be obliged

- To ensure that the provisions, conditions and requirements shall be observed in the interest of animal welfare;
- To advise the institution and the staff involved in animal experiments and the keeping of laboratory animals;
- To give his opinion on each application for authorization to conduct an experiment on animals;
- To work towards the development and introduction of procedures and means for avoiding or reducing experiments on animals inside the institutions.



Article 15

- The authorities responsible under Land law shall appoint one or more commissions to assist them in deciding whether or not to authorize experiments on animals.



special points of assessment

- degree of inflicted harm
- measures to minimize the suffering
- specific criteria for humane endpoints
- monitoring



Why do animals still have to suffer unnecessarily?



How can we explain deficiencies?



- Lack of trusting each other
- Not enough time
- Lack of support
- Insufficient expertise



What can we do about this?

- More animal welfare officers
- Promote the confidence between the parties
- Improve the knowledge
- Appoint a technician-in-charge



The awareness about the Responsibility for the laboratory animals as our fellow creatures must be intensified

