



Terms of Reference

FELASA-ECLAM-ESLAV Working Group on The Role of the Designated Veterinarian

Background

The directive 2010/63/EU states in its article 25, Designated veterinarian: *Member States shall ensure that each breeder, supplier and user has a designated veterinarian with expertise in laboratory animal medicine, or a suitably qualified expert where more appropriate, charged with advisory duties in relation to the well-being and treatment of the animals.* Whereas some areas of the world have well delineated the role of this veterinarian (e.g., chapter four of The Guide in the USA and Canada, and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in the UK), there is a lack of harmonisation in Europe. Currently the role and extend of the veterinarian's authority depends on the national Competent Authority and on the institution employing the veterinarian. This leads to a huge variability between establishments across the continent. Also, the independence of the veterinarian is sometimes compromised due to this lack of definition. This may give rise to conflicts of interest, for instance when the employer is on one side and the animal's welfare on the other.

There is thus a need for a harmonised guidance on the role of the Designated Veterinarian across Europe. Such recommendations, set forth by FELASA, ECLAM and ESLAV, could establish the basis for a common role description across all European countries. This will help the many veterinarians working in the laboratory animal field to relate to a simple document where the role is clearly stated.

The task of the working group would be to develop these recommendations for the Designated Veterinarian role. The recommendations should be a guide for those working across Europe as veterinarians in laboratory animal facilities.

Tasks, proposed line of work

The working group shall:

- Map the role of the Designated Veterinarian across Europe, noting differences and similarities

- Review of the role in other non-European countries
- Review the support to the Designated Veterinarian role from the different European national Competent Authorities or statutory bodies responsible for keeping the register of veterinarians eligible to practise in the country
- Review published recommendations for the veterinary care of laboratory animals
- Write detailed recommendations for the harmonization of the Designated Veterinarian role.

Composition of the working group

Seven veterinarians (including the convener) working as Designated Veterinarians with documented experience in Laboratory Animal Medicine should be considered for this working group. Ideally, the members of the working group would be members of a FELASA member association plus members of ESLAV, and eventually ECLAM. FELASA will select 3 members including the convener.

Budget

FELASA, ECLAM and ESLAV will cover expenses of the members of the working group of each association respectively. FELASA will make available a total of 2000 Euro for telephone conferences and 1-2 face to face meetings expenses for its three FELASA representatives in the working group. FELASA will also make available another 3000 Euro for Open Access publication.

Deadline

Two years after start.