



Det lokala djurskyddsorganet

How to interpret your ethical permit.

Background information:

Each principal investigator/försöksledare must have an approved ethics permit for the use of animals in research - an animal ethics permit.

The permit is valid for a maximum of 5 years. If a permit to use animals is not approved, a research project cannot be performed.

Research projects must be approved from an ethical point of view by a regional ethics committee before the start of the experiment (Animal Welfare Act 21§) in order to protect from unnecessary suffering, disease and harm (Animal Welfare Act 2 §).

The principal investigator/försöksledare shall:

1. ensure that the people carrying out the procedures, as well as those taking care of the animals, have read the ethics permit, and give written information to them about:
 - A. how to define, judge and document the suffering of animals (e.g. scoring sheets for suffering),
 - B. how to supervise the animals before, during and after the experiment. Ensure that unnecessary suffering does not occur (i.e. suffering not covered by the ethics permit),
 - C. experimental endpoint; the **planned** end-point for the animal (e.g. "...organ collection at day 22"),
 - D. humane endpoint¹; the **non-optional** end-point for the animal (unnecessary suffering occurs), according to the ethics permit.
2. ensure that the project is performed in accordance with the ethics permit.
3. be primarily responsible for the animals undergoing procedures.
4. By checking the box "De personer som är involverade i försöket har tillräcklig kompetens enligt 6 kap. L 150.", you are guaranteeing that you as the PI/försöksledare will ensure that all persons working under your ethics permit has the appropriate training.

¹ 'the earliest indicator in an animal experiment of (potential) pain and/or distress that, within the context of moral justification and scientific endpoints to be met, can be used to avoid or limit pain and/or distress by taking actions such as humane killing or terminating or alleviating the pain and distress' (Hendriksen and Morton, 1999).

N.B! The ethical permit must be followed to the letter.

Terms & questions and answers

Make sure to read the entirety of the ethics committee's decision.

- As part of the ethics permits decision you will find potential terms under the headline "Villkor för beslutet" (on the first page). These terms are legally binding and must be followed.
- Any other appendix, such as questions and answers, are binding.

Other required permits

Make sure that you have obtained all other required permits, such as:

- *provfiske*- test fishing,
- *dispens/tillstånd för provfiske i naturskyddade områden*- exemption/permit for test fishing in nature reserves,
- *undantag från förordning om fisket, vattenbruket och fiskenäringen*- derogation from the regulation on fishing, aquaculture and fishing industry,
- *tillstånd av fiskrättsinnehavaren*- permission from the fishing right holder,
- *tillstånd för användning av mikroorganismer*- permits for use of microorganisms,
- *tillstånd för användning av genmodifierade mikroorganismer*- permits for use of genetically modified micro organism,
- CITES,
- *jakt*- hunting,
- *ringmärkning*- bird ringing,
- *insamling/hantering av fridlysta djur*- collection/handling of protected animals.

During the experiment

- Procedures: Make sure those working under the ethics permit know how many procedures an animal can undergo.

- Housing conditions: Make sure you follow the housing conditions in the ethical permit. Note that single housing of social species requires permission from the ethics committee.
- Humane endpoint: The person working under the ethics permit must know how to assess the humane endpoint for the animals in that particular experiment.
- Surveillance: surveillance described in the ethics permit must be performed and documented by the researchers working under the ethics permit. If a scoring template is used to assess the humane endpoint, any animal that deviate from normal should be scored and the score documented.

Degree of difficulty/svårhetsgrad

- Retrospective assessment: must be performed at the completion of each severe ethics permit, “avsevärd svårhetsgrad” (and other animal experiments that the Regional Ethics Committee has decided shall be evaluated). The questions for retrospective assessment are part of the ethics decision.
 - Make sure that you keep records that allow you to respond to the retrospective assessment questions formulated by the ethic committee.
- Severity classification: Note that actual severity at euthanasia of an animal can differ from the severity of the ethics permit.

Transferring animals between ethics permits

- Animals which have been used in any procedure (incident) and then need to be transferred to a different protocol (ethics permit) will need to be approved by the university veterinarian, before a transfer can take place.

Euthanasia

- Only methods of euthanasia approved in the ethics permit can be used.
- The method of euthanasia that leads to the least possibly suffering for the animal while still fulfilling the scientific endpoint of the experiment, must be utilized.

Amendments

For all amendments, the underlying ethics permit with all terms still applies, with the exception of the changes approved by the ethics committee.

- Amendments that may affect the animals negatively must be approved by the ethics committee.
 - As with the underlying permit, any terms or appendices regarding the amendment are legally binding.
- Amendments that will not negatively affect the animals can be approved by the Stockholm University Animal Welfare Body (DO-E).
 - As with the underlying permit, any terms or appendices regarding the amendment are legally binding.
- The underlying ethics permit decides the time of validity of the ethics permit, regardless of amendments.

If you have difficulties understanding the ethics permit you are working under, ask the försöksledare eller föreståndare.