Working with Animals in the UK, Europe and Overseas

1. UK and Europe

The University of Cambridge requires all staff and visitor who wish to work with animals, in the UK or other European Institutions, to do so in accordance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA 1986) and under the guidance of the University’s Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB).

Within this remit you will be expected to fulfil a process through the University of Cambridge, Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB). Please contact Biomedical Services HO Licencing, UBS HO Licencing <ubsHOLicencing@admin.cam.ac.uk> for all information regarding this process.

* 1. University Animal Welfare Policy transcript <http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/research-at-cambridge/animal-research/our-policies/policy-on-the-use-of-animals-in-research>

“All members of the University carrying out procedures regulated under the Act must by law have prior training, relevant experience, assessment of competence and licence authority from the Home Office. All animal research project licences are subject to robust assessment and consideration by the University Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body consisting of independent lay-members, veterinary surgeons, animal welfarists, animal care staff and academic representation from outside the animal research field.”

1. Overseas

The University expects staff and any persons likely to publish information gained from their experiences observing, working with, or studying animals outside the EU to conduct their research in an exemplary manner and to the same, if not higher, standards as those set out ASPA 1986.

* 1. University Animal Welfare Policy transcript :

“Where wild animals need to be observed and studied in their natural habitat, our responsibilities will extend outside of the UK legislation and country borders to ensure research in non-laboratory settings is also undertaken with full consideration to our robust ethical justification and animal welfare. University staff undertaking regulated procedures, or collaborating with scientists, abroad or at other ASPA licensed user establishments; or work performed elsewhere during sabbaticals will employ the same standards required under UK legislation.”

1. Non-Regulated Procedures

Outside of the remit of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.and EU Directive 2010/63 EU, all University Staff involved in any observing, working with or research using animals un-regulated will be expected to fulfil a departmental approval. Any procedure involving animals will be conducted in an exemplary manner of the same if not higher standards to those set out for regulated procedures.

1. Cells, tissues or other biological materials from EU and Overseas sources

Where cells, tissues or other biological materials are obtained for a scientific purpose for use at the University from animals housed overseas confirmation must be obtained before importation that the animals have been cared for and accommodated in facilities that would meet the standards set out in the UK Codes of Practice for the Housing and Care of Animals Bred, Supplied or Used for Scientific Purposes (2014).

1. Animal subjects include but are not restricted to:
2. Living animals (wild, domestic, farm, laboratory)
3. Post mortem animals
4. Tissues or by-products from animal cadavers