
	Title: LAREC SOP for Use and Care of Animals in Research	Effective Date: 25/10/2023 Review Date: 01/11/2024
	Document Number: SOP-LRC-011 Version #1.0	Approved by: David Jarvis Date: 25/10/2023 Signature 

Liselo Animal Research Ethics Committee (LAREC)



Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Use and Care of Animals in Research

1. Purpose

To ensure that the health and welfare of all animals involved in research or teaching are monitored and assessed adequately and to ensure that the animals' level of pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm does not exceed the permissible level specified in the Liselo Animal Research Ethics Committee (LAREC)-authorised protocol for the study.

2. Scope

Liselo Labs affirms that humans have an obligation to respect animals and to appreciate that they are sensitive to pain, respond to stress and may remember such experiences. Liselo Labs expects its members to make every responsible effort to refine, reduce and replace animal experimentation. Liselo Labs affirms that the use of animals in experiments should be justified fully and that discomfort, stress and distress should be kept to a minimum or, ideally, avoided. Liselo Labs affirms that all aspects of SANS 10386:2021 and the South African Department of Health's Guidelines for Ethics in Health Research (2015) must be adhered to in its housing of animals and in its use of animals in experiments.

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3. **Pre-requisites**

Applicants should consult the South African National Standard: The care and use of animals for scientific purposes (SANS 10386:2021 or newer), and the South African Department of Health's Guidelines for Ethics in Health Research (2015 or newer).



4. **Definitions**

- 4.1. SOP - Standard Operating Procedure
- 4.2. LAREC - Liselo Animal Research Ethics Committee
- 4.3. PI - Principal Investigator

5. **Responsibilities**

The ultimate responsibility for the welfare of experimental animals' rests with the PI. Unless otherwise specified in the LAREC-authorized protocol, welfare monitoring and taking the appropriate actions are the responsibility of the investigative staff, including over weekends and on public holidays and during the acclimatisation.



The provision of daily animal husbandry, i.e. the cleaning of cages, providing food, water, bedding and environmental enrichment, is the responsibility of animal facility staff where the animals are housed. Such provision of daily animal husbandry by the animal facility staff does not constitute welfare-monitoring as set out in this SOP, nor does it obviate the welfare-monitoring for which the PI must take ultimate responsibility.

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6. Procedure

6.1. Use and care of animals in research

- 6.1.1. Prior authorisation must be obtained from the LAREC before any animals are used for experimental purposes. All experimental animals must be identifiable and their records must be available for inspection. All cages must be labelled and the record of welfare monitoring must be complete, including the relevant monitor's name. A copy of the final authorised protocol and any amendments must be filed in the designated place for inspection.
- 6.1.2. The principal object of the use of animals must be to obtain useful results and scientific information of high quality for the benefit of animals, humans and the environment.
- 6.1.3. The experimentation must not be purposeless or unnecessary. Experiments accompanied by pain will be allowed only if they are shown to be for the purpose of producing results that could benefit humans, and where the benefits are clearly commensurate with the amount of pain caused. In such cases, analgesics must be used to alleviate pain and distress. In special circumstances, the requirement for analgesics may be relaxed.
- 6.1.4. The use of animals must be thoroughly and scientifically planned and based on knowledge of the problem under study and so designed that the expected results justify the execution of the experiment.

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- 6.1.5. The husbandry and care of animals must comply with the most recent, internationally recognised minimum standards and recommendations. Special attention shall be given to aspects such as regular feeding, adequate and clean water, good environmental hygiene, environmental enrichment, adequate ventilation and elimination of excessive heat, cold and noise from the environment of the animal. Precautionary measures shall be taken to prevent diseases, injuries, overcrowding and stress factors and to protect the animals from endo- and ectoparasites.
- 6.1.6. Social and behavioural requirements must be considered. Social animals should always be housed in groups where possible and the specific needs for their psychological well-being should be considered.
- 6.1.7. Animals collected in the field for further study as preserved specimens should be appropriately killed and preserved as soon after collection as possible to avoid unnecessary stress.
- 6.1.8. Animals shall be kept for no longer than the minimum period necessary, and must be disposed of or retired appropriately after cessation of experimental work.
- 6.1.9. The researcher must be prepared to terminate an experiment if it becomes clear that continuation will cause unnecessary pain and suffering. If the procedure causes serious injury, the animal must be killed before recovery from anaesthesia.
- 6.1.10. If it is clear that the animal will suffer pain after the experimental procedure, the humane endpoint must be determined before the

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experiment and the animal must be killed in a humane manner, according to accepted veterinary principles to ensure immediate death.

- 6.1.11. No experimental animal may be disposed of before certainty exists that death has occurred.
- 6.1.12. No animal may be subjected to more than one significant pain-causing procedure. Variations must be authorised by the LAREC at a formal meeting.
- 6.1.13. Housing: cages and other housing and the premises must comply with the SANS 10386:2021 standards for the specific species where these exist.
- 6.1.14. Transportation:
 - 6.1.14.1. Experimental animals shall be transported in accordance with recognised standards and regulations.
 - 6.1.14.2. On arrival at an airport, seaport, railway station or other destination, the experimental animals shall immediately be unloaded and transported to suitable permanent housing.
 - 6.1.14.3. Appropriate veterinary care shall be given to experimental animals found to be in a diseased, injured or other poor state during travel or on arrival.

7. References

- 7.1. South African National Standard: The care and use of animals for scientific purposes (SANS 10386: 2021).
- 7.2. SOPs adopted from the University of Cape Town.