



Netherlands National Committee  
for the protection of animals  
used for scientific purposes

*Netherlands National  
Committee for the  
protection of animals  
used for scientific  
purposes (NCad)  
Annual Report 2016*



## The NCad and its method of working

The Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad) has been appointed for the protection or welfare of animals used for scientific purposes and education. By giving advice, exchanging knowledge and developing national and international networks, the NCad aims to make a contribution to minimising the use of laboratory animals at both the national and the international level. The ethical review of animal procedures is of pivotal importance in this matter, as are the 3 Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement).

## NCad members

Herman Koëter (Chair), Henriëtte Bout, Coenraad Hendriksen, Frank Dales (until August 2016), Frauke Ohl (passed away in January 2016), Jan-Bas Prins, Pieter Roelfsema, Wim de Leeuw (as an external expert until October 2016 and as a member after that), Reineke Hamelers (since October 2016).





## Preface by the Chair

The second year of the Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad) is already behind us. Though it has gone by very quickly, we also got a lot done in 2016. We offered a total of seven opinions to the Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Martijn van Dam. In April we received a new request from the Minister. He asked us to draw up a timetable for the phasing out of animal procedures, so that the Netherlands can be the world leader in innovation without laboratory animals by 2025. He gave us a few months to prepare a well-substantiated opinion. At his request, we put on hold the other opinions we were working on for the time being so that we could focus on this task.

The Minister's request initially caused a lot of commotion among those involved with animal procedures. This was also apparent during the two workshops hosted by the NCad in June and July, and from the consultation of community groups that took place in September. The use of animals for research and education is an extremely complex issue, partly due to the diverse and at times conflicting interests involved. Much of our current understanding of the way that the body works, and

of the causes and treatments of diseases, derives from research involving animal experiments. At the same time, these experiments have gone hand in hand with animal suffering ranging from mild to substantial. I am proud that the NCad has been able, based on the input of a range of external experts and on its own expertise, to draw up an opinion that is widely appreciated – and not just in the Netherlands. For me, offering this opinion to the Minister was the highlight of 2016.

But this is only one of the seven opinions that we issued in 2016. In this annual report, you will also find information about the others. These opinions, which take into account the views of all the relevant stakeholders, form the basis of our work. In preparing these opinions, we were grateful for the input provided by experts from both the Netherlands and beyond. For 2017, we continue to be excited to work with experts and organisations who have ideas about how policy on animal experimentation can be even further improved, enabling us to issue new opinions that set the bar ever higher without ever losing sight of feasibility!

Herman Koëter, *Chair of the NCad*



# 1. Introduction

In the Netherlands, the government, the scientific community, industry and civil society organisations have been working hand in hand for years on the responsible use of animals in education and research (including scientific research). The Experiments on Animals Act (*Wet op de dierproeven*, Wod) came into force in the Netherlands in 1977. This Act protects the welfare of laboratory animals, establishes frameworks with which procedures must comply and imposes requirements on the levels of expertise expected of those who work with laboratory animals. In late 2014, the Experiments on Animals Act was revised to bring it into compliance with the European Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (2010/63/EU). Since then, two organisations have been active in the matter: the Central Authority for Scientific Procedures on Animals (CCD), which as an independent administrative body is the only organisation authorised to grant project licences for the performance of animal procedures in the Netherlands, and the Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad), which has been appointed as an advisory body for the protection of animals used in research and education. These are two independent organisations, but together they contribute to improving the welfare of laboratory animals.

In order to achieve its objective, the NCad issues solicited and unsolicited opinions, fosters the development of knowledge, and builds national and international networks relating to laboratory animals, animal procedures and the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the “3 Rs”) thereof. In 2016, the NCad issued six solicited and one unsolicited opinion. The committee also organised an international symposium, which helped with the further expansion of an international network. When developing the opinions, the NCad was grateful to be able to draw on the expertise of many experts from both the Netherlands and beyond.

The opinion “Transition to non-animal research” received a lot of attention, not only in the scientific community but also in the national and international media. This shows that the issue of animal experimentation and the welfare of laboratory animals is very much on people’s radars, with opinions ranging from “it would be impossible to do effective research without animal procedures” to “it will be possible in the short term to replace all animal procedures with better research methods that do not involve laboratory animals.”

This annual report contains information about the NCad’s activities in 2016.



## 2. The committee

The NCad is made up of seven members, all appointed by the Dutch Minister for Agriculture. In 2016, Frauke Ohl (who passed away in January 2016) and Frank Dales (who took on a new job as mayor of the municipality of Velsen from May 2016) were replaced by two new members.

As of October 2016, the NCad was made up of:

### **Herman Koëter** (Chair)

*Managing Director of the Orange House Partnership, former Scientific Director of the European Food and Safety Authority, and former OECD Principal Administrator*

### **Henriëtte Bout** (Deputy Chair)

*Ethicist, self-employed entrepreneur, Lecturer in Professional Ethics for Biologists, Senior Advisor to the City of Amsterdam's Integrity Bureau*

### **Reineke Hamелеers**

*Director of Eurogroup for Animals*

### **Coenraad Hendriksen**

*Institute for Translational Vaccinology (Intravacc) and Emeritus Professor of Alternatives to Animal Testing at Utrecht University*



### **Jan-Bas Prins**

*Professor of Laboratory Animal Science at Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC) and Director of LUMC's Central Animal Facility*

### **Pieter Roelfsema**

*Director of the Dutch Institute for Brain Research (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), Professor at the University of Amsterdam (AMC-UvA)*

### **Wim de Leeuw**

*Head of the Utrecht Animal Welfare Body affiliated to Utrecht University and UMC Utrecht*

The committee is supported by a General Secretary, three Senior Advisors and a Senior Communications Advisor, who combine their expertise in the field with political and administrative experience as well as a broad focus on achieving the NCad's objectives. These employees are appointed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO.nl).

In 2016, the secretariat consisted of:

**Ger de Peuter** (general secretary)

**Leane van Weereld** (secretary/advisor)

**Marjolein Schilders-van Boxel** (advisor)

**Monique Paris** (advisor)

**Inge Toussaint** (communications advisor)

RVO.nl provides the NCad with support services relating to real estate, finance, IT, legal affairs and communications.

The NCad convenes about once a month. The minutes of these meetings are published on the NCad homepage:

<http://www.ncadierproevenbeleid.nl/over-het-ncad/vergaderslagen>.

The NCad held a total of eleven meetings in 2016.



### 3. About NCad

The NCad has been appointed for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes and for education.

#### Statutory duties

In accordance with its statutory mandate, the NCad performs the following duties:

- submitting solicited and unsolicited advisory reports to the Dutch Minister for Agriculture, the Central Authority for Scientific Procedures on Animals (CCD) and the Animal Welfare Bodies (IvD) regarding the acquisition, breeding, housing, care and use of animals in procedures, as well as about alternatives to animal procedures
- disseminating best practices for the use of animals in animal procedures
- exchanging information with the national committees of other Member States about the Animal Welfare Bodies' performance, about the assessment of project proposals and about the dissemination of best practices within the EU
- encouraging the development, acceptance and use of alternatives to animal procedures, both at the national and the international level
- supporting communication with and between professionals in the field of animal procedures and alternatives, and communicating details of animal procedures and alternatives to the public

The NCad achieves visible improvements aimed at the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the “3 Rs”) of animal procedures and the ethical review of the use of laboratory animals in scientific research and education. This helps to minimise laboratory animal use and to accelerate scientific innovation.

Given its expertise and network, NCad is a key player in the area of laboratory animal procedure policy. The NCad brings parties together and shares knowledge with a view to furthering the development of laboratory animal policy and the implementation of the 3R policy (including ethical review).

#### Transparent method of working and approach

The NCad is transparent about its method of working and approach. The committee abides by the following key principles:

- the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture's integrity regulation applies, which imposes strict conditions on ancillary activities and financial interests (the so-called “restricted list”)
- the declarations of interest and CVs of the members of the NCad are publicly available (on the NCad website)
- minutes of meetings are publicly available (on the NCad website)
- regulations and decisions (about appointments and remuneration, administrative regulations and the protocol for working arrangements between the Ministry of Agriculture and NCad) are publicly available (on the NCad website)



## 4. Procedure for issuing opinions

The Dutch Minister for Agriculture, the Central Authority for Scientific Procedures on Animals, the Animal Welfare Bodies and other organisations can all request an opinion from the NCad. When a new request for an opinion is received, the request is discussed in the next NCad meeting. The NCad will come to terms with the organisation requesting the opinion as to how the request is to be interpreted, the way in which the request will be handled and with what priority. The NCad may also decide, on its own initiative, to issue an unsolicited opinion.

An action plan will be prepared, which will be published on the <https://english.ncadierproevenbeleid.nl/> website. Depending on the scope and complexity of the request for an opinion, one or two members of the NCad will be chosen to spearhead the preparation of the opinion. In this matter, they will receive support from one or two advisors from the secretariat.

All NCad members provide input for the opinions. In addition, when preparing its opinions, the NCad is grateful for the input of experts from the Netherlands and beyond. It will often consult them by establishing an ad hoc working group, while stakeholders and chain partners will also be consulted.

For most opinions, civil society organisations that have an interest in animal procedures and the possibilities offered by the “3 Rs” will be invited to contribute their ideas. In 2016, four consultations of community groups were held to gather input for the opinions “Indicators, management and utilisation of data for monitoring laboratory animal use and 3R alternatives, part 2” (January 14, 2016), “Alternative methods for killing laboratory animals” and “Procedures using cats and dogs” (both March 24, 2016), as well as “Transition to non-animal research” (September 8, 2016). The recommendations from the organisations that were present during these meetings are listed in the advisory reports, along with whether or not the NCad included these in its opinion.

In preparing the opinion “Transition to non-animal research”, the NCad sought additional input of experts from the Netherlands and beyond through hosting workshops (on June 9 and July 7, 2016) and through social media and online consultation.

The meetings were well attended, with scientific institutions, umbrella and industry organisations, animal welfare organisations and anti-animal experimentation organisations all represented.

The final version of an opinion is to be agreed at the next NCad meeting. In 2016, there was consensus within the NCad on all seven opinions that were issued.

Opinions are presented to the Dutch Minister for Agriculture. As soon as the Minister has provided a policy response and sent the opinion on to the Dutch House of Representatives, it will be made public and published on the NCad homepage. All opinions are also translated into English and published on the NCad's English-language website.

The committee is also engaged in bringing the opinions to the attention of all relevant stakeholders in the field of animal procedures, so that they can be put into practice at both the national and the international level. The Codes of Practice issued by the NCad are incorporated across the field of animal procedures and applied as best practices. They are also used in enforcement by the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA).



## 5. Opinions

In 2016, the NCad worked on the opinions that were requested in 2015 and on two new requests.

In 2016, the Dutch Minister for Agriculture sent two requests for advice to the NCad – one request for advice on water and food deprivation in laboratory animals (March 22, 2016) and one request for a roadmap for phasing out animal procedures (April 6, 2016).

Seven opinions, one of which was presented in the form of a position statement, were completed and presented to the Minister. The opinion on water and food deprivation is still in progress and will be completed in 2017, as will the follow-up opinions on animals killed in stock (quality and efficiency criteria) and the adaptation of the “Synthesis of Evidence” position statement into a Code of Practice for implementation at the European level.

### New requests for opinions in 2016

#### *Water and food deprivation*

Although the method of restricting food and water for laboratory animals in neurocognitive research is consistent with international practice, the Dutch Minister for Agriculture Martijn van Dam wants to look into possibilities to improve animal welfare within this method and/or exploring alternative methods. He therefore requested, in a

letter dated March 22, 2016, that the NCad look into possible improvements to research methods with the aim of increasing laboratory animals’ motivation to perform tasks. He asked the NCad to include in its research all species for which reduced food and water intake is used as a way of inducing them to perform tasks. The opinion is to include best practices, which are also to be disseminated in a European context. In preparation for this opinion, students at the Van Hall Larenstein Institute for Applied Sciences have already carried out a literature review.

#### *Roadmap for phasing out animal procedures*

On April 8, 2016, the Dutch Minister for Agriculture Martijn van Dam requested in a letter that the NCad draw up a roadmap for phasing out animal procedures. The Minister’s aim is for the Netherlands to be the world leader in innovation without laboratory animals by 2025. The questions that needed to be addressed in this context were how the intended reduction and timetable can be achieved and what international efforts will be required to make this possible. The Minister asked the NCad to draw up a comprehensive plan that includes all relevant factors needed to achieve the reduction and roadmap. He also requested that the NCad prioritise the preparation of the roadmap over other current requests for opinions.

## Opinions issued in 2016

### March 2016

At the end of March 2016, the NCad presented four opinions to the Dutch Minister for Agriculture.

#### *Rehoming of former laboratory animals*

In this opinion on the rehoming of former laboratory animals, the NCad advocates, based on the intrinsic value of the animals, that non-human primates, cats and dogs used in animal procedures must, in principle, be rehomed to locations suited to them until the end of their lives (the principle of “yes, unless”). In order to put in place a harmonised and transparent rehoming process, the NCad has drawn up a framework in which the rehoming process is described in general terms. This framework can be applied to several different species. In addition, Codes of Practice (CoPs) have been drawn up that focus specifically on dogs, cats and non-human primates.

#### *Preventing, recognising and combating pain in laboratory animals*

The Minister asked the NCad to issue an opinion on the procedures and application of best practices that can help researchers and Animal Welfare Bodies to recognise and combat pain in laboratory animals. The basic principle used by the NCad on this subject is that no animal must ever suffer unnecessarily. Although previous research has

revealed that there are no major immediate concerns as far as the recognition and management of pain in laboratory animals is concerned, the NCad feels that there is definitely still room for improvement. The advice comprises a Code of Practice (CoP) that aids researchers, biotechnicians and Animal Welfare Bodies in the prevention, recognition and management of pain in laboratory animals. The CoP includes an infographic that highlights the key areas of attention in preventing, recognising and combating pain in laboratory animals.

#### *Synthesis of Evidence in laboratory animal research*

This concerns a position statement on the possible applications of Synthesis of Evidence (SoE) in designing research that involves laboratory animals. SoE is an umbrella term for the various ways of classifying and evaluating available scientific knowledge to substantiate a proposed procedure. This enables researchers to choose the most relevant research model and select the most effective experimental design, helps to prevent unnecessary duplication of research, and ensures transparency. The position statement gives an overview of the various options that can be applied with regard to SoE. The NCad considers an SoE that is carefully documented in all its aspects to be of great importance to increasing the quality of research questions and the research design of laboratory animal research.

*Indicators, management and utilisation of data for monitoring laboratory animal use and 3R alternatives, part 2*

Data on laboratory animal use and the possible ways of applying the 3Rs tend to be hidden, scattered, or not at all available. The disclosure of new insights and data contributes to a more targeted development and application of the available alternatives and, by extension, to a reduction of the prevalence of animal procedures. In October 2015, the first part of this opinion was presented to the then Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Sharon Dijksma. In this first opinion, the NCad recommended that data on the use of laboratory animals and the possible ways of applying the 3Rs be made accessible as open data via a new data warehouse. In the second part of this opinion, the NCad recommends that this is to be done in stages, with the government taking the initiative by commissioning a central body to build the data warehouse (the hardware). In the next stage, this data warehouse can be further developed into a general data warehouse, which can also be used to host research findings and other data from relevant institutions. A rough cost-benefit analysis has been included as well.



## August 2016

In August 2016, two opinions were presented to the Minister.

### *Alternative methods for killing laboratory animals – for careful consideration in structurally departing from the prescribed methods*

European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes sets out prescribed methods for the killing of laboratory animals. The key principle in these methods is that the animals should experience as little pain, suffering and distress as possible. The Directive provides possibilities for deviating from the prescribed methods of killing provided that the alternative method is considered to be at least as humane. In order to request an exemption or dispensation for the use of an alternative method of killing, the applicant must provide scientific justification. Applications for exemptions have been submitted to the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA), but the NVWA felt that the Directive provided insufficient guidance to determine which criteria the scientific justification had to meet. Therefore, at the request of the Minister, the NCad issued an opinion on methods of killing that are at least as humane as those set out in the European Directive. The opinion provides guidance to the NVWA in assessing such alternative methods of killing by specifying which elements need to be covered in a scientific justification.

### *Procedures using cats and dogs*

In 2015, the then Dutch Minister for Agriculture sent a letter to the NCad stating that she was aware of the social objections to the use of cats and dogs in animal procedures. However, a ban on procedures using cats and dogs would constitute a national limitation that goes beyond EU Directive 2010/63/EU. Therefore, such a ban would only be legally feasible if the European legislation on this issue were to be amended. The Minister asked the NCad to examine what possibilities exist within the current legal frameworks to minimise the use of cats and dogs in research. In the opinion, the NCad makes specific recommendations and offers guidance on how to reduce the use of cats and dogs as laboratory animals without comprising the quality of research (both fundamental research and research required by law) and education. In addition, the opinion also briefly addresses possible communication strategies for this topic.





## December 2016

The Dutch Minister for Agriculture formally accepted one opinion in the Nieuwspoor press centre in The Hague on 15 December 2016.

### *Transition to non-animal research – on opportunities for the phasing out of animal procedures and the stimulation of innovation without laboratory animals*

This opinion states that the use of laboratory animals in the regulatory safety testing of chemicals, food ingredients, pesticides and medicines (including veterinary medicines) can be phased out by 2025. The same is true of the use of laboratory animals for the release of biological products such as vaccines, although regulatory pre-clinical research cannot be phased out at the same pace. In the field of fundamental scientific research, the opportunities for the reduction of laboratory animal use vary from one research domain to another. The NCad recommends that each research domain develop a target vision for the phasing out of laboratory animal use.

The NCad does feel that, in order to achieve the transition to non-animal research methods, it will be necessary to move away from existing mindsets and practices within the many research domains that use laboratory animals – a so-called paradigm shift. The government and society will have to change their approach to risk. The transition to non-animal research will not happen by itself: it will require management and focus. The NCad recommends that

the Minister play a guiding role in this process and also involve other ministries in order to ensure that a consistent and coherent policy is developed at the national level. In order to accelerate the transition, the NCad advises that the Minister work at the international level to bring about a revision of the current regulatory risk assessment process. In addition, a more chain-oriented approach to innovation policy will promote multidisciplinary collaboration, making it easier for innovations without laboratory animals to progress from development to application.

## Opinions not completed in 2016

### *Negligent use of laboratory animals*

Following publications in the media and scientific literature on the unjustified or negligent use of laboratory animals, the Central Authority for Scientific Procedures on Animals (CCD) requested an opinion from the NCad on December 15, 2015. The CCD expressed its firm belief in the care which most researchers take in the preparation of their laboratory animal research, also incorporating new insights into their processes, but it found insufficient evidence that this care is taken on a systematic basis. This is why the CCD asked the NCad to issue an opinion as to whether the conclusions from the publications are correct, and what guidance the NCad can provide for researchers and the Animal Welfare Bodies in order that they can safeguard these

aspects even more effectively when designing research proposals and issuing advice on the use of animal procedures. An international working group was established in 2016, which will develop an international Code of Practice (CoP) for Synthesis of Evidence.

### *Water and food deprivation*

The NCad established two separate working groups in 2016 for the preparation of this opinion: one studying the use of deprivation in neurocognitive research involving non-human primates, and another looking at similar research involving rodents. Most neurocognitive research involves these species, which is why the NCad is focusing on them. The objective of the working groups is to develop a Code of Practice with the 3Rs serving as guiding principles. The working groups convened once in 2016.

### *Follow-up opinion on animals killed in stock*

As a follow-up to the NCad advisory report “Genetically modified animals killed in stock”, the NCad will be exploring more closely two aspects relating to the quality criteria and the ways to improve the quality of the breeding. The NCad has established two working groups to this end: one that will develop quality criteria and efficiency criteria for the generation of genetically modified mice and rats using gene editing methods, and another that will develop quality and efficiency criteria for the breeding of genetically modified mice and rats. The working groups convened once in 2016.

Program

- 10.25-10.45 The relevance of animal research in society and introduction of the concept of Synthesis of Evidence (SoE): development of the European Code of Practice (ECoP) on Patient Placeholders: member of the ECoP.
- 10.45-11.00 Data sharing and accessibility of data (data sharing) open Access: Interweaver Dr Ana Sofia Figueiredo, University of Heidelberg
- 11.00-11.15 SHORT BREAK
- 11.15-11.30 Further research by applying Synthesis of Evidence Dr Virginia Inocencio, Aalborg University



## 6. The international level

The NCad also aims to accelerate the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the 3Rs) of laboratory animal experimentation at the international level. This is necessary, for example, in order to bring about a revision of the regulatory risk assessment process. Given the international nature of this area of research and the relevant regulations, a new approach to risk can only be successful if it is developed through a process of large-scale international collaboration.

The EU Member States exchange knowledge and experience in relation to animal procedures and the 3Rs through the National Contact Points (NCPs). As part of the preparation of the opinion on pain management, an international workshop was held in the summer of 2016 to explore whether a Code of Practice (CoP) could be developed at the European level. This idea was also discussed at an NCP (national contact point) meeting. Ultimately, the decision was made not to develop a European CoP, but to make the NCad's opinion on pain in laboratory animals, which includes a CoP, available internationally with the publication of the English-language version of the report on the ECVAM website.

On 8 December 2016, the international symposium “Phasing out animal experiments, the next steps: applying openness, scientific justification and transparent reporting” took place. The symposium was organised by the NCad at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Speakers from different countries discussed the necessity of classifying and evaluating the available scientific knowledge as substantiation for a proposed procedure. The umbrella term for the various methods for doing this is Synthesis of Evidence (SoE). During the symposium, it became apparent that while SoE does not always automatically result in a reduction in the use of laboratory animals in research, it is a good tool for improving the quality of scientific research.

In addition, at the instigation of the NCad, a working group of experts who will develop an international CoP for Synthesis of Evidence, based on the NCad opinion “Synthesis of Evidence”, convened for the first time in Brussels on December 8. This CoP will be developed in further detail in 2017.

When drawing up its opinions, the NCad is keen to draw on the expertise of international experts. In this context, an English-language LinkedIn page was specially created for the opinion “Transition to non-animal research”, where experts from outside the Netherlands could provide input for this opinion (both in response to specific questions from the NCad and on their own initiative).

International experts and national committees in other Member States were also consulted on other opinions such as “Alternative methods for killing laboratory animals” and “Rehoming of former laboratory animals”.

## 7. Animal Welfare Bodies

Every breeder, supplier and user of laboratory animals is required to establish an Animal Welfare Body (IvD). The Animal Welfare Body advises staff from the breeders, suppliers and users, monitors animal welfare, and supervises applications for project licences and the implementation of projects after a licence has been granted. Every organisation that conducts animal procedures has one or more people who are responsible for the welfare and care of the animals. These animal welfare officers, together with other experts, are part of the Animal Welfare Body. This procedure ensures that the monitoring of laboratory animal welfare is no longer dependent on the expertise and position of any single officer within an organisation.

In 2016, the Animal Welfare Body Platform was established. This platform is an important entity for the NCad with which to exchange knowledge and experiences. In doing so, the NCad works closely with the Central Authority for Scientific Procedures on Animals, for whom the platform is also an important entity with which to exchange knowledge. The Animal Welfare Bodies can ask the NCad for advice. In addition, the opinions which the NCad issues at the request of other parties can help the Animal Welfare Bodies further to improve laboratory animal welfare on the front line and promote the application of the 3Rs. At the same time, the Animal Welfare Bodies can provide important input for the NCad's opinions, because they are in touch with what is happening in daily practice.

In early 2016, the NCad organised a meeting of the Animal Welfare Bodies. In November 2016, the board of the Animal Welfare Bodies Platform was formally appointed during an Animal Welfare Bodies meeting. The NCad contributed to the programme for that day. In addition, the NCad regularly consulted in 2016 with the Netherlands Society for Animal Technology (Biotechnische Vereniging, BV) of which the Animal Welfare Bodies platform is a part, as well as with the Chair of the Animal Welfare Bodies Platform.

The overview of existing Codes of Practice which the NCad compiled in 2016 was offered to the Netherlands Society for Animal Technology to be published on its website. In close consultation with the Netherlands Society for Animal Technology, the NCad made a proposal for how CoPs – both current CoPs and partly outdated ones that are still relevant for informational purposes – can be made available to all interested parties in a centralised manner.

In 2017, the NCad wishes further to expand this exchange of knowledge and collaboration with the Animal Welfare Bodies Platform, as well as to initiate the process of updating Codes of Practice that are now outdated.



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Animal Health

**Sedamun**  
20 mg/ml  
Oplossing voor injectie voor honden, katten, paarden en runderen  
Flazone  
25 ml

**Sedamun**  
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Oplossing voor injectie voor honden, katten, paarden en runderen  
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tamper-evident seal  
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**Anesketin**  
100 mg/ml  
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**Anesketin**  
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5 ampullen van 1 ml **0,3 mg/ml**  
**Temgesic** 0,3 mg/ml  
oplossing voor injectie  
0,324 mg buprenorfinehydrochloride overeenkomstig met 0,3 mg buprenorfine  
Oplossing voor injectie  
Voor intramusculaire en intraveneuze toediening  
Dechra

**Temgesic**  
0,3 mg/ml  
Oplossing voor injectie voor honden, katten en paarden  
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## 8. Communications

Transparency is the core principle informing all of the NCad's activities. The focus of the NCad's communications is on all parties involved in animal procedures and the 3Rs, from researchers to animal welfare organisations.

### Website and social media

The website [www.NCadierproevenbeleid.nl](http://www.NCadierproevenbeleid.nl) plays a key role in the NCad's communications. Because the NCad is working on building up an international network as well, its website is also available in English: <https://english.ncadierproevenbeleid.nl/>. English translations of the opinions issued by the NCad can be found here as well. The website also features regular blogs by the Chair, in which he shares his views on developments relating to animal procedures, the 3Rs and the opinions issued by the NCad. Eight electronic newsletters were sent out in 2016. The NCad also regularly disseminates news via Twitter: @NCad\_Nederland.

### Conference visits

In order to improve the NCad's visibility and further expand national and international networks, the members of the NCad and the secretariat regularly attend symposia and meetings. For example, the NCad had an information stand and organised a workshop on rehoming laboratory animals at the 2016 Biotechnical Days (Biotechnische Dagen), an annual conference organised by the Netherlands Society for Animal Technology. Members of the NCad





and the secretariat also attended symposia organised by FELASA, EUSAAT and the European Commission (December 6 and 7, 2016).

### Publications

The opinion “Transition to non-animal research” received a lot of publicity. All the national daily newspapers, and many regional dailies, covered the news about the Minister’s aim and the advice given by the NCad. The NCad was also contacted by journalists from abroad, such as the German daily newspaper *Die Tageszeitung*, the Canadian news magazine show W5 as produced by CTV News, and the French-based news website Chemical Watch. The opinion received a lot of tweets and retweets, both in the Netherlands and beyond.

### *Communications on the opinion “Transition to non-animal research”*

The Dutch Minister for Agriculture’s request for a roadmap for phasing out animal procedures caused quite a stir, with reactions ranging from “that is completely impossible” to “all animal procedures should be stopped immediately”. In preparing the opinion, the NCad gathered as far as possible the input of experts from both the Netherlands and abroad, we well as from stakeholders involved in animal procedures and the 3Rs. To this effect, the NCad held workshops, asked people for input on social media, organised a consultation of community groups and arranged one-on-one meetings with experts who were able to contribute to the opinion.

The aim of the workshops was to gain a snapshot of the possibilities, and impossibilities, involved in reducing animal procedures across the various research domains. Experts from various subject areas were invited to provide the NCad with input on this opinion in a personal capacity, while 28 external experts participated in the workshops. The first workshop focused on the possibilities that exist in the area of legally required testing for the authorisation of substances and medicines. The second workshop took a broader look at the possibilities that exist in other research areas. The NCad took the findings from these workshops into account in drawing up its final opinion.

In addition, in order to look beyond the circle of known experts for input on this opinion, the NCad established in August 2016 the LinkedIn group “Towards a future of scientific progress without the use of experimental animals” (with English as the group’s working language). NCad Chair Herman Koëter launched a call for ideas on this opinion in the LinkedIn group. The group garnered 250 members within a short space of time. People were also asked to contribute ideas via Twitter and the NCad website.

The consultation of community groups took place on September 8, 2016. Seventeen organisations advised the NCad, on behalf of their members, as to what they considered important for this opinion. The discussion during the consultation was structured around a number of different statements. The opinion lists the recommendations that were approved by the organisations present for each subject.

On December 15, 2016, the opinion was officially presented to the Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Martijn van Dam, at the Nieuwspoor press centre in The Hague, in the presence of representatives from the scientific community, animal welfare organisations and the media. The NCad had commissioned a whiteboard animation for the meeting. In this film, the context for the issue of animal procedures and the 3Rs was conveyed in a visual way. In his presentation, NCad Chair Herman Koëter discussed the recommendations set out in the opinion. In the afternoon, a meeting was held at which stakeholders were asked how they envisioned their role in putting the NCad’s recommendations into practice.

The opinion received a lot of attention from national and international media, as well as social media.

## 9. Finances

The NCad is supported by a secretariat. Personnel costs were by far the biggest expense in 2016.

	2015		2016	
	hours	FTE	hours	FTE
Issuing opinions (secretariat NCad)	3,829	2.7	4,906	3.2
Communications	905	0.63	811	0.5
Secretarial support	718	0.5	553	0.4
General Secretary/ team management	431	0.3	182	0.1
<b>Total amount</b>	<b>6,359</b>	<b>4.13</b>	<b>6,452</b>	<b>4.2</b>

	2015	2016
FTE	4.1	4.2
Personnel costs	€537,403.98	€662,868
Other costs	€95,815.16	€174,484
<b>Total amount</b>	<b>€633,219.14</b>	<b>€837,351</b>

The committee members received a total of €77,428.28 in remuneration. The Chair received €24,400.92 in fixed remuneration, and the members each received around €10,000 (several members received slightly less due to serving less than a full year). In addition, they received a total of €6,687.53 in travel and other expenses. The total costs were therefore €84,115.81.

Committee members	Remuneration
Herman Koëter	€24,400.92
Henriëtte Bout	€10,263.36
Pieter Roelsema	€10,263.36
Jan-Bas Prins	€10,263.36
Coenraad Hendriksen	€10,263.36
Frank Dales	€5,986.96
Frauke Ohl	€855.28
Wim de Leeuw	€2,565.84
Reineke Hameleers	€2,565.84
<b>Total amount</b>	<b>€77,428.28</b>



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## 10. A look ahead to 2017

In the two years since its establishment, the NCad has issued a total of nine opinions, eight of which were issued at the request of the Dutch Minister for Agriculture and one on its own initiative. Two requests for advice were not completed in 2016; they will be completed in 2017.

On December 15, 2016, Dutch Minister for Agriculture Martijn van Dam gave his response to the NCad opinion “Transition to non-animal research” in a letter to the Dutch House of Representatives. He stated that it is an ambitious opinion which came about with the aid of broad input from across the field. In order to achieve its objectives, a coordinated effort must be made by a wide range of stakeholders at a number of different levels. The Minister: “It is a process of transition which requires a great deal from everyone concerned, and which can only be achieved if everyone is on the same page and takes a coordinated approach. The NCad states that the government should take charge of this process. I am keen on doing this to the extent that my powers allow, as I am keen on playing my part in this process of change alongside all the other stakeholders involved. This is, of course, also contingent upon developments taking place at the international level.”

One of the NCad’s recommendations pertains to the difference in possibilities for the 3Rs that exists between the domains of fundamental scientific research and applied research. The Minister will follow up on the NCad’s advice by asking the committee to facilitate the development of ten-year visions for each of the three

research fields (fundamental research, applied scientific research and education), in consultation with the scientific community and the public. These visions must identify clear transition objectives that are linked to the core focus of the area of research concerned. The NCad will undertake this assignment under the direction of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, in collaborating with the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM).

In 2017, the NCad wishes further to improve the sharing and dissemination of knowledge at the national and the European level. The NCad wants to be at the forefront of the international level and undertake or assist in new initiatives that support the 3R policy.

In 2017, the NCad is also keen to draw on expertise from both the Netherlands and abroad, in working groups and through the consultation of community groups. NCad wants to look beyond the familiar circle in seeking out these experts. This is why the committee has created an “NCad Register of Experts”. The NCad uses this register to establish working groups and schedule consultations. The contribution provided by experts can take different forms: individually or in working groups, from a one-off consultation to collaboration in a working group for a specific period of time (usually several months), from sharing knowledge and experience verbally to actively helping to draft Codes of Practice or other documents.



In addition, the collaboration with the Animal Welfare Bodies will play a key role. The Animal Welfare Bodies can offer input to the NCad on opinions and other activities, and at the same time they can put the NCad's opinions into practice. Sharing knowledge is central in this matter. In cooperation with the Animal Welfare Bodies Platform, this partnership will take even clearer shape in 2017.

In 2017, the NCad will explore how it can contribute to its opinions being put into practice by disseminating them widely and providing additional information.





This is a publication by the Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad)

PO Box 20401

2500 EK The Hague

The Netherlands

T 0900 280028

E [NCad@minez.nl](mailto:NCad@minez.nl)

[www.NCadierproevenbeleid.nl](http://www.NCadierproevenbeleid.nl)

[www.english.ncadierproevenbeleid.nl](http://www.english.ncadierproevenbeleid.nl)

Twitter @NCad\_Nederland

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The NCad has been appointed for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes and for education. The NCad achieves visible improvements aimed at the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the 3 Rs), as well as the ethical review, of animal procedures in order to minimise the use of laboratory animals at both the national and the international level.