



# The Netherlands Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad) – highlights from its first two years of existence

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In 2014, the Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad) was appointed by the Minister of Agriculture for the protection of animals used for scientific and educational purposes. NCad aims to make a significant contribution to minimizing laboratory animal use, both at national and international level. This will involve giving (policy) advice, exchanging knowledge, and developing both national and international networks. The ethical review of animal procedures is fundamental, as well as the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement).

**Replacement**  
Replacing animal procedures with non-animal methods.

**Reduction**  
Reducing the number of laboratory animals used in research.

**Refinement**  
Refining the use of laboratory animals to reduce suffering.

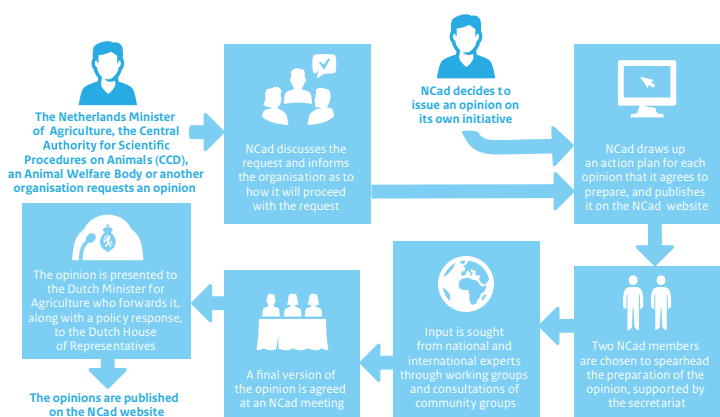
## Statutory duties

- 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 regarding:
- Exchanging information with the national committees of other Member States about:

- the acquisition of laboratory animals
- the breeding of laboratory animals
- the housing of laboratory animals
- the care of laboratory animals
- the use of animals in procedures
- alternatives to animal procedures
- the Animal Welfare Bodies' performance
- the assessment of project proposals
- the dissemination of best practices within the EU

- Disseminating best practices for the use of animals in animal procedures
- Encouraging the development, validation, 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
- Communicating details of animal procedures and alternatives to the public

## How the NCad arrives at its opinions



## Current members of the NCad

The NCad is made up of seven members, all appointed by the Dutch Minister for Agriculture. As of October 2016, the NCad was made up of (from left to right): Wim de Leeuw (Head of the Utrecht Animal Welfare Body affiliated to Utrecht University and UMC Utrecht), 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), Pieter Roelfsema (Director of the Dutch Institute for Brain Research from Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Professor at the University of Amsterdam (AMC-UVA), Coenraad Hendriksen (Institute for Translational Vaccinology Intravacc and Emeritus Professor of Alternatives to Animal Testing at Utrecht University), Henriëtte Bout (Deputy Chair, Ethicist, self-employed entrepreneur, Lecturer in Professional Ethics for Biologists, Senior Advisor to the City of Amsterdam's Integrity Bureau), Jan-Bas Prins (Professor of Laboratory Animal Science at Leiden University Medical Centre LUMC and Director of LUMC's Central Animal Facility) and Reineke Hamelers (Director of Eurogroup for Animals).



## NCad output from 2015-2016

**8** ? Opinions requested

**9** 📄 Opinions issued

**Subjects:**

- Genetically modified animals killed in stock
- Indicators, management and utilisation of data for monitoring laboratory animal use and 3R alternatives, part 1
- Rehousing of former laboratory animals
- Preventing, recognising and combating pain in laboratory animals
- Synthesis of Evidence in laboratory animal research
- Indicators, management and utilisation of data for monitoring laboratory animal use and 3R alternatives, part 2
- Alternative methods for killing laboratory animals
- Procedures using cats and dogs
- Transition to non-animal research

**4** ✅ Opinions in progress

**Subjects:**

- Negligent use of laboratory animals
- Water and food deprivation in laboratory animals
- Follow-up opinion on animals killed in stock
- Visions for animal-free innovations in fundamental scientific and applied research domains

## International activities



- International workshop with National Committees from EU Member States
- International symposium "Phasing out animal experiments, the next steps"
- International workshop on pain management
- International meeting on the CoP for Synthesis of Evidence
- All NCad reports are published in Dutch and English on the NCad website



In December 2016, Dutch Minister of Agriculture Marijth van Dam accepted the NCad report "Transition to non-animal research".

## A look ahead

As a follow-up to the opinion report on Transition to non-animal research, the NCad will facilitate the development of ten-year visions for animal-free innovation in each of the three research fields (fundamental research, applied scientific research and education), in consultation with the (international) scientific community and the public. These visions will 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 collaboration with the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw), the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science (KNAW) and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM).

The NCad wishes further to improve the sharing and dissemination of knowledge at the national and the European level and undertake or assist in new initiatives that support the 3R policy. The NCad is also keen to continue to draw on expertise from both the Netherlands and abroad, in working groups and through the consultation of community groups. In addition, the collaboration with the Animal Welfare Bodies will continue to play a key role. The Animal Welfare Bodies can offer input to the NCad opinions and other activities, and at the same time they can put these opinions into practice. Sharing knowledge is central in this matter. In cooperation with the newly formed national Animal Welfare Bodies Platform, this partnership will take even clearer shape.

## Contact

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## Annual report

The full annual report over the year 2016 is available on the NCad website:

<https://english.ncadierproevenbeleid.nl/about-ncad/annual-report-2016>

