

Guideline for preparing Animal Research Proposals

This guideline issued by the joint “Tierversuchskommission” (animal experiment commission) of the cantons AG-BL-BS was designed to support the applicants to fill in the required proposal correctly, both in terms of content as well as format.

General background

- Proposals are to be prepared according to information 1.02 of the BLV “Bewilligungsgesuche für Tierversuche: **Erläuterungen zum Formular A**”. This information can be found on the homepage of the BLV.
- Proposals should be submitted as soon as possible via “e-tierversuche”. Approval of the license will generally be granted **within 3 months** by the cantonal veterinary office.
- The **official appeal time** of the BLV (10 days after approval) has to be awaited before start of any experiments.

Notes on individual points in “Formular A”

- **Paragraph 33 – Total number of requested animals** per proposal: The total number of requested animals has to arithmetically align with the declarations in 54.3 (Experimental design: Number of groups, group size).
- **Paragraph 51.1 – Overview of the project:** For better comprehension, please provide a flow chart (graphical representation of the procedures conducted on animals with an exact timeline) for experiments causing pain and stress for the animals.
- **Paragraph 54.3** – In addition to the general experimental design, please state the distribution of male and female animals here.
- **Paragraph 54.4** – The annotations to “Form A” of the BLV should be closely considered. This particularly applies for the justification for the applied number of animals per experiment / experimental series, including the statistical evaluation of data.
- **Paragraph 56.3** – Depending on the type and severity of the procedures, the proposal has to include a score sheet for evaluating the condition of the animals. The evaluation parameters have to be defined specifically for the experiments and the score sheet must include criteria for taking measures and/or termination of the experiment in case of disturbances of the animals (humane endpoints).
- **Paragraph 56.4** – The sum of animals for a specific severity grade has to be aligned with the total number applied for (paragraph 33).
- **Paragraph 58 – Sacrificing animals:** It must be indicated how it is ensured that the sacrificed animals are in fact dead.
- **Paragraph 63 – “Güterabwägung”:** The following information has to be stated here:
 1. **Gain of knowledge and consequences.** (“The gain of knowledge that we expect from the animal experiments described here leads to...”)
 2. **Expectations.** (“In a best case scenario this will lead to” or “We expect that this knowledge will...”)
 3. **Assessment and use of possible alternatives.** (“In terms of the 3R principles (Refine, Reduce, Replace), we have...”)
 4. **Impairments.** (“We anticipate that the animals used in these experiments will experience the following impairments (stress, suffering, ...)”)

5. **Fate of the animals after the experiments.** (“At the end of the experiments, the animals will...”)

Submitting a renewal proposal

The renewal proposals have to be submitted to the respective veterinary office at least 3 months before the end of the approved license.

Under **paragraph 44.2**, the following mandatory information has to be provided:

- Summary: What are the practical experiences from the model? Which results could be gained during the current experimental period? Any publications that are based on data acquired through the experiments should be attached to the renewal proposal.
- How many animals have been used during the last three years?
- A summary of statistical considerations should be provided, including the variance of data points in relation to group sizes.
- What are the changes applied for in the renewal proposal compared to the previous proposal?

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(Translation: Anja Gundlfinger)