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Edition 1

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

The care and use of animals for scientific purposes

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Table of changes

Change No.	Date	Scope

Acknowledgement

This South African standard is based on the Australian Standard of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, September 1997, drawn up by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (copyright Commonwealth of Australia, reproduced by permission), and on the European Convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for scientific study and for other scientific purposes.

Foreword

This South African standard was approved by National Committee SABS SC 1040D, *Steering committee for nature conservation — The care and use of animals for scientific purposes*, in accordance with procedures of the SABS Standards Division, in compliance with annex 3 of the WTO/TBT agreement.

This document was published in December 2008.

Annexes A to P are for information only.

Introduction

The purpose of this standard is to ensure the ethical and humane care of animals used for scientific purposes, as well as for teaching activities. Its aims are to:

- a) emphasise the responsibilities of researchers, teachers and institutions using animals;
- b) ensure that the welfare of animals is always considered;
- c) ensure that the use of animals is justified by the establishment of Animal Ethics Committees (AECs) so as to ensure adherence to the principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the 3 Rs);
- d) prevent or minimize pain or distress, where possible, for each animal used in scientific studies and teaching activities;
- e) ensure minimum uniform national standards regarding animal care and use;
- f) minimize the number of animals used in scientific studies and teaching activities in such a way that this does not jeopardise the validity of the studies or activities; and
- g) promote the development and use of techniques which adhere to the principles of Replace, Reduce and Refine animal use in scientific studies and teaching activities (see (c)).

Contents

	Page
Acknowledgement	
Foreword	
Introduction	
1 Scope	5
2 Normative references	5
3 Definitions	6
4 General principles for the care and use of animals for scientific studies and teaching activities	9
4.1 Purpose	9
4.2 Justification and responsibilities	9
4.3 Replacement	10
4.4 Reduction	10
4.5 Refinement	10
5 Responsibilities of institutions and their AECs	11
5.1 Responsibilities of institutions	11
5.2 Responsibilities and operation of AECs	13
5.2.1 Compliance with this standard	13
5.2.2 Terms of reference	13
5.2.3 Membership	14
5.2.4 Written proposals	16
5.2.5 Operating procedures	18
5.2.6 Assessing proposals	19
5.2.7 Monitoring	19
5.2.8 Annual review	19
5.2.9 Reporting to institutions	20
5.2.10 Categorizing proposals	21
5.2.11 Scientific studies and teaching activities at more than one institution	21
5.2.12 Non-institutional applicants and the responsibility of the AEC	21
6 Responsibilities of researchers and teachers	21
6.1 General	21
6.2 Planning studies	23
6.3 Conduct of scientific studies and teaching activities	23
6.3.1 General considerations	23
6.3.2 Additional considerations	27
7 Acquisition and care of animals in breeding and holding areas	32
7.1 General	32
7.2 Animals obtained from facilities within the Republic of South Africa (RSA)	33
7.3 Animals obtained from other countries	34
7.4 Admission of new animals into holding facilities	34

SANS 10386:2008

Edition 1

Contents (continued)

	Page
7.5 Care of animals in holding and production facilities.....	34
7.5.1 General	34
7.5.2 Outdoor holding facilities.....	35
7.5.3 Indoor housing	35
7.5.4 Environmental factors	36
7.5.5 Food and water	37
7.5.6 Pens, cages, containers and the immediate environment of the animals	38
7.5.7 Environmental enrichment	39
7.6 Species-specific minimum housing requirements.....	39
7.7 Management and staff	51
7.7.1 Person-in-charge of breeding and holding facilities.....	51
7.7.2 Staff	53
7.7.3 Routine husbandry procedures.....	53
7.7.4 Identification of animals.....	54
7.7.5 Disposal of animal carcasses and waste.....	54
8 Wildlife studies	54
8.1 General.....	54
8.2 Wildlife captured from natural habitats.....	54
8.3 Capturing of wildlife	55
8.3.1 General	55
8.3.2 Use of traps.....	55
8.3.3 Non-trap capture	56
8.3.4 Handling and restraint of wildlife	56
8.3.5 Holding and release	57
8.3.6 Transport.....	57
8.3.7 Identification	58
8.3.8 Field techniques	58
8.3.9 Voucher specimens.....	58
8.3.10 Wildlife interaction studies.....	58
8.3.11 Feral animal studies.....	59
9 Care and use of farm animals for scientific studies and teaching activities.....	59
9.1 General	59
9.2 General requirements	59
9.3 AEC applications.....	60
9.4 Teaching and demonstration requirements for all farm animals.....	60
10 The use of animals to demonstrate knowledge or techniques in scientific disciplines in schools and tertiary institutions	61
10.1 General	61
10.2 General principles	61
10.3 Responsibilities of lecturers and teachers	61
10.4 Animals used in primary and secondary schools.....	62

Contents (*concluded*)

	Page
Annex A (informative) Genetic and microbiological status of laboratory animals.....	63
Annex B (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Amphibians (Frogs (<i>Xenopus laevis</i>))	67
Annex C (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Birds	81
Annex D (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Cattle	104
Annex E (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Cephalopods	111
Annex F (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Dogs and cats	120
Annex G (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Fish.....	137
Annex H (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Horses	151
Annex I (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Non-human primates (baboons and vervet monkeys).....	157
Annex J (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Pigs.....	165
Annex K (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Rabbits and guinea pigs.....	172
Annex L (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Rodents (mice, rats and hamsters)	180
Annex M (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Sheep and goats	188
Annex N (informative) Care and management of laboratory animals – Terrestrial reptiles.....	195
Annex O (informative) Pain management and humane endpoints	205
Annex P (informative) Animal welfare incident report forms.....	222
Bibliography	225