



UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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Media Release

**From the
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)**

19th July, 2006

For Immediate Release:

UFAW welcomes Council of Europe action on laboratory animal care

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) has welcomed the announcement by the Council of the European Union that it intends to incorporate new guidelines on the minimum standards for housing, husbandry and care into the Directive (86/609/EEC) on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions regarding the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes.

European Union member states that were parties to the convention ETS 123 (European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes) agreed in 1997 to revise Appendix A to the convention. This Appendix provides guidance on the minimum standards for housing, husbandry and care for laboratory animals, and while not legally binding has been an influential document in achieving some degree of standardisation across Europe.

A revised Appendix was drawn up, by a Working Party composed of experts and representatives from the parties and observers, based on experience, current good practice and scientific findings obtained since the drafting of the original Appendix. The revision puts a greater emphasis on meeting the needs of the animals within their accommodation, and space allowances were drawn up taking into account enrichment provisions that might be necessary.

The revision was unanimously adopted by the parties to the convention at their meeting in Strasbourg in June and will enter into force twelve months after its adoption, in June 2007.

The Council of the European Union has announced the intention of the Community to incorporate the newly adopted provisions in Directive 86/609/EEC of 24 November 1986 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States regarding the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes.

Dr Robert Hubrecht, Deputy Director of UFAW and member of the Working Party which undertook the revision, commented "UFAW fully supports the changes to ETS 123 which, when adopted and implemented by member states, should result in a significant improvement in the housing and husbandry standards of animals bred and used for scientific purposes in those countries."

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SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Chief Executive and Scientific Director: James K Kirkwood BVSc PhD CBiol FIBiol MRCVS

Secretary: Donald C Davidson

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Note to Editors:

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) is an internationally recognised, independent scientific and educational animal welfare charity. It works to improve knowledge and understanding of animals' needs in order to achieve high standards of welfare for farm, companion, research, captive wild animals and those with which we interact in the wild.

UFAW improves animal welfare worldwide through its programme of awards, grants and scholarships; by educational initiatives, especially at university and college level; by providing information in books, videos, reports and in its scientific journal *Animal Welfare*; by providing expert advice to governments and others, including for legislation and 'best practice' guidelines and codes; and by working with animal keepers, scientists, vets, lawyers and all those who care about animals.

This work relies on the support of members, subscribers and donors.

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