

Step 1: Overall factors relevant to the assessment of the facility		
Factor	Issues requiring attention	Your comments
Legislation	<p>Not all countries have legislation or regulatory supervision in the field of laboratory animals, and the standard may therefore be lower than in Europe/Denmark.</p>	
Accreditation	<p>AAALAC is the most important accreditation programme for laboratory animal facilities. Please note that AAALAC only ensures that the facility complies with local legislation and not necessarily European or Danish legislation. If a facility is accredited, you can ask for their accreditation number and read the accreditation on the AAALAC website.</p>	
Other accreditations	<p>There are also local accreditations, such as the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC).</p> <p>Other types of accreditations also exist, such as ISO 9001. Together with the Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) quality management system, these can guarantee the quality of the performance of the experiments,</p>	

	without focusing on animal welfare and the 3Rs, however.	
Animal welfare policy	<p>It is important to learn about a potential partner's internal policy in the area of animal experimentation. Poor animal welfare has an impact on the health of laboratory animals, and sick animals can lead to poor research results. This means that it is important that the partner focuses on – and prioritizes – animal welfare. The animal welfare policy may contain opinions on a wide range of areas relevant to animal welfare. Enquire about the company's policy in this area (preferably a written policy), as this can give you an impression of whether the company gives high priority to animal welfare.</p>	
Health monitoring	<p>Laboratory animal facilities should conduct health monitoring to ensure the health of the laboratory animals, as sick laboratory animals can lead to poor research results. You can enquire about the results of the health monitoring.</p>	
Animal welfare body	<p>The facility should have an animal welfare body or a comparable body to advise staff on matters relating to the welfare of the laboratory animals. Ask for the names and job titles of the members of the body. It</p>	

	is important that a named person is responsible for animal welfare.	
Staff	<p>It is important that the facility employs trained animal keepers and has at least one associated laboratory veterinarian.</p> <p>There should also be an internal training programme in place for employees working directly with the animals. You can enquire about this.</p>	
Standard Operating Procedures	<p>In order to ensure the quality of work with the animals, the facility should have established "Standard Operating Procedures" (SOPs) for matters related to laboratory animals, such as animal care and handling, experimental procedures and housing equipment.</p> <p>You can ask to be shown the facility's SOPs.</p>	

Step 2: Animal welfare issues relevant to the assessment of the facility		
Welfare area	Issues requiring attention	Your comments
Housing	<p>The housing of laboratory animals is of great importance to their welfare, as their physiological needs must be met insofar as possible.</p> <p>Ask to see the animal housing and enquire about matters relevant to animal welfare. If physical visits are not possible, many facilities offer virtual tours or access to films and images.</p> <p>You may want to consider speaking with scientists, animal keepers and veterinarians and the animal welfare officer, as they can often provide the necessary information.</p> <p>When entering into a collaboration agreement with a contract research laboratory, it is often possible to purchase additional space.</p>	
Purchasing and transporting animals	<p>It is important that the laboratory animals are acquired from registered breeders in order to ensure the animals' health status, etc.</p> <p>It is also important that animals are transported to the facility in a gentle manner.</p> <p>After transportation, the animals must be acclimatized for an adequate period to adjust to their new environment before experimentation begins.</p>	

<p>Handling</p>	<p>Laboratory animals should be handled as gently as possible.</p> <p>Handling is essential for the animals to accept human contact, which allows procedures to be carried out in the best possible manner.</p>	
<p>Feed, feeding and watering</p>	<p>Feed must be stored appropriately to ensure the quality. Feed that has surpassed its shelf life or has been stored in unclean conditions should not be used.</p> <p>Animals must be fed appropriately and provided with access to fresh water.</p>	
<p>Environmental enrichment</p>	<p>Each species requires specific environmental enrichment to satisfy their basic needs, thereby enhancing welfare.</p> <p>When working with a contract research laboratory, additional enrichment options are often available for purchase.</p>	
<p>Socialization and training</p>	<p>Training and socialization are vital to mitigate animal stress, which in turn leads to improved research outcomes.</p> <p>When working with a contract research laboratory, you can often purchase enhanced animal welfare through options such as socialization and training of the animals for procedures.</p>	

<p>Methods of killing</p>	<p>Investigate how the animals are killed to ensure that this is done in an ethically responsible manner.</p>	
<p>Marking methods</p>	<p>Laboratory animals must be marked using the least painful methods possible, and only by a veterinarian or an individual trained and experienced in performing such marking procedures.</p>	
<p>Anaesthesia and analgesia</p>	<p>Appropriate anaesthesia (sedation) and analgesia (pain relief) are necessary both for animal welfare and for the results of the experimentation.</p> <p>Enquire about the procedures for anaesthesia and analgesia that are being used.</p> <p>If you lack the necessary knowledge to evaluate the procedures used, seek assistance from experts.</p>	
<p>Aseptic surgery</p>	<p>Pay attention to whether aseptic techniques are adhered to during surgical procedures, as failure to do so may result in increased mortality, heightened suffering, and pain.</p>	
<p>Experiment-specific procedures</p>	<p>Enquire about the procedures to be performed on the animals.</p> <p>If you lack the necessary knowledge to decide on the quality of the planned work, seek assistance from experts.</p>	