

### **3R Grete Østergaard**

For optimal animal welfare it is essential to establish a culture of care in institutions where animal experimentation takes place. The animal facility staff, including veterinarians and animal caretakers, is generally characterized by a high concern for animals. Scientists naturally focus mainly upon their research, and it is therefore fortunate if we, the animal facility staff, can focus on animal welfare and are given the optimum conditions for doing so. We perform a daily delicate balance act between ensuring animal welfare and assisting scientists in their research. We are sometimes perceived by scientists as interfering, and are not always treated with respect, and it can be difficult to continuously find the motivation to deal with the many minor daily issues. Various tools for enforcement of the 3Rs at the practical level exist, including legislation and institutional power and rules. In most cases, concerns for animal welfare can be solved with advice and dialogue, but there are cases where stronger aids would be helpful. For example, a stronger obligation for the researcher to follow the advice of the designated veterinarian, and the animal welfare body, could be expressed in the legislation.