MEMBERS STATE NARRATIVE: FINLAND 2014

In 2014, a total of 145,542 procedures in animals were done in Finland.

The total number of use decreased by 16% (172,968 animals used in procedures in 2013). The greatest reductions were in the procedures with mice (8,805), rats (7,814) and 6,547 birds (6,547).

Dogs reported as used in procedures (4,248) included 4,099 pet dogs which gave a blood sample for a study of disease genes and 125 pet dogs which participated in patient studies for better treatment methods. 36 dogs were bred and used in laboratory. Cats reported as used in procedures (452) were all pet cats with blood sampling for a study of disease genes.

There were no significant changes in the use of animals in any specific areas of use. Most procedures were done in basic research (111,096 procedures), main areas being oncology, nervous system, immune system and multisystemic or ethology/animal behavior/animal biology). Another main area was translational and applied research (28,820 procedures), main area was human nervous and mental disorders.

Actual severities of procedures were assessed for the first time: 65% of the procedures were classified as non-recovery or mild, 30% moderate and 5% severe. By species, the severe procedures involved 5,199 mice, 1,960 rats, 10 rabbits and 2 pigs. The severe classification was not exceeded in any procedures. The impact of 3R methods on statistics cannot yet be evaluated.