MEMBERS STATE NARRATIVE: FINLAND 2016

In 2016, a total of 105,615 procedures in animals were done in Finland, which was 9% more than in 2015 (96,817 procedures). The greatest increases were in the procedures with mice (7,792 animals more), other rodents (1364 more) and domestic fowls (4,765 more).

The increased use of mice in procedures (16%) took place in the translational and applied research in studies for Human nervous and mental disorders. Other rodents (bank voles: 1314 animals) were used in the basic research (Ethology/Animal behavior/Animal biology). The procedures in domestic fowls increased in the translational and applied research (Animal diseases and disorders) and in the regulatory use and routine production (Quality control).

45% of mice used were genetically altered and 13% (7,328 mice) had a harmful phenotype. With rats, 3% were genetically altered, one rat with harmful phenotype. With zebrafish, the numbers were 58% and 16% (1,206 zebra fish), respectively.

The number of procedures done in basic research were 55,744 procedures, main areas being Nervous system (14,320 procedures), Immune system, Multisystemic and Ethology/Animal behavior/Animal biology (8,795, 10,539 and 7,376, respectively). For the translational and applied research (40,591 procedures) the main categories of purposes were Human nervous and mental disorders (20,831 procedures) and Animal diseases and disorders (9,869 procedures). In regulatory use and routine production, 2,645 domestic fowls were used for quality control, 1,457 animals (sheep, pigs, domestic fowls and horses) for routine products and 2,916 animals (mice, rats, dogs, pigs) in toxicity and other safety testing.

Procedures reported as done in dogs (3,961) included 3,582 procedures in pet dogs which gave a blood sample for a study of disease genes. 244 procedures were done in pet dogs which participated in patient studies for better treatment methods. Dogs bred and used in laboratories were used in 135 procedures including 116 re-use. Cats reported as used in procedures (259) were all pet cats with blood sampling for a study of disease genes.

Actual severities of procedures: 61,5% of the procedures were classified as non-recovery or mild, 30% moderate and 8,5% severe. By species, the severe procedures involved 6,862 mice (2,934 in 2015) and 2,161 rats (2,679 in 2015). The severe procedures in mice and rats were done mainly in the purpose of Human nervous and mental disorders both in basic and translational research. The severe classification was not exceeded in any procedures.