

SOP: Management of surplus animals at the DRFZ

§17 Killing Abs. 1 Animal Welfare Act

A custodial sentence of up to three years or a financial penalty shall be imposed on anyone who kills a vertebrate animal without reasonable cause (...).

1. Purpose

Not all animals born in the breeding facility can be used for scientific questions. The so-called "surplus animals" are killed. In order to keep the number of such killings as low as possible, this SOP regulates the course of action for managing surplus animals, the determination of the lack of alternative use (secondary use) and thus the existence of a reasonable cause for killing vertebrates.

2. Principles

1. The killing of a vertebrate animal may only take place if there is a reasonable cause for doing so in accordance with §1 and §17 of the Animal Welfare Act.
2. Animals that cannot be further used in the own breeding or for scientific questions must be subjected to the alternative use procedure described below.
 - a. A delivery to external scientific institutions is possible under certain conditions (e.g. compliance with hygiene requirements) via an animal export.
 - b. Rehoming of genetically modified animals is not possible.
 - c. Strains protected by patent law (Material Transfer Agreement) may only be handed over for secondary use for teaching purposes.
 - d. Phenotypically burdened strains are subject to approval and are excluded from secondary use.
 - e. A placement attempt via the DRFZ animal pool exclusively serves the purpose of passing on animals for scientific or teaching purposes.

3. Scope

Animal facilities of the DRFZ: Breeding and quarantine barriers in Marienfelde, quarantine and experimental housing in Mitte.

4. Responsibilities

The responsibility for an animal lies with the animal owner. Killing of animals must be requested by the animal owner or by the animal owner's authorized staff. It is the responsibility of animal caretakers to ensure that there is a reasonable cause for the sacrifice before carrying out a killing request. The reason for killing is entered by the animal owner/responsible staff in the animal database when the request to kill the animal is made. Killing and placement orders without indication of the reason for killing will be rejected.

5. Procedure for managing surplus animals

5.1 Breeding management

The most important measure to keep surplus animals to a minimum is optimal **breeding management**. Good communication between scientific staff, veterinarians and animal care staff is essential for this. The animal husbandry database ensures that all staff working in animal care and animal experiments always have a weekly updated overview of animal numbers, births and kills.

In addition, the number of animals bred and the percentage distribution of reasons for killing are evaluated and possibilities for optimization are discussed in an annual **breeding discussion**¹. At least one veterinarian, the responsible animal caretakers and the owners/responsible persons for the animals take part in the breeding discussion. A record of the discussion is kept.

5.2 Animal sharing in the DRFZ animal pool

If the owners/responsible persons determine that an animal cannot be further used for breeding or scientific purposes, there is initially no reasonable cause to kill it. In this case, an attempt at placement shall be initiated. This is carried out by transferring the animal to the DRFZ animal pool.

The animal pool makes it possible to pass on animals via the animal database PyRAT without any further communicational detours. Animals that cannot be used are made available to all scientists with a click. If a placement is made, the responsibility for the animal is transferred to the new owner.

5.3 Procedure for unsuccessful placement

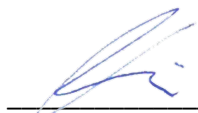
If there is no request for the animal from the DRFZ animal pool within 14, the transfer into the DRFZ animal pool is considered a kill request. Animal caretakers will kill the animals with the reason "Surplus".

6. Applicable documents ([DRFZ-Intranet](#))

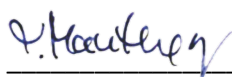
- PyRAT Picture-by-picture guide for animal caretakers
- PyRAT Picture-by-picture guide for scientists

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¹ The breeding discussion takes place at least once a year. If necessary, the interval is shortened.
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