Anonymous #4

Question 2

Do you think GM animals are 'unnatural' and if so, does this concern you?

- This depends on the level of 'unnatural' and how many are produced. In general the degree of 'unnatural' GM animals in relation to experimentation does not seem excessive to my knowledge.

Types of animals that may be created.

Are there some types of animals that should never be created?

- A limit to multi-crossing of GM animals unless it is known no multi-detrimental affect will occur.
- Neurodegenerative disease, unless other senses can compensate or level of condition.

Other areas of research.

- How the expectations of research is perceived by the public and how they and scientist relate to this. E.G. having babies for reasons other than just having a child.

Question 3

What is your view about the use of alternatives?

- I would like to see written into the project licence what alternatives are being used in the field for the research being carried even if this is not pertinent to the question being asked and if they can actively look at alternatives during their work? If they can, this should be specially funded by some organisation.

Question 4

What is your view about ethical issues relating to the use of animals in research?

How can we know how much animals suffer?

Can we reliably extend concepts such as 'pain', 'suffering', 'distress' and 'happiness' from humans to animals?

- Until we have a better understanding of this, anthropomorphism can be a guide, as well as the relative outcomes during the experiment.

Do you think that all animals feel physical or psychological pain?

- All animals? (Vertebrates?) It would be better to ere on the safe-side and say yes unless it is otherwise known.

Should ...animals experience pain....

- There may be well-documented work already in this area? What is needed is for this to be disseminated into journals that relate to laboratory animal science. If knowledge is lacking then work should be carried out for a more definitive approach.

Question 5

What is your view about the UK regulations on research involving animals in UK?

Welfare of animals.

- Welfare assessments must be conducted all through the project and an overall assessment at the end to see if it could have been assessed differently, particularly if problems were encountered. Regulations in assessing welfare are needed to ensure minimum standards.

Regulation of GM animals.

- As more GM lines are produced pressure will come for some to be treated as normal animals if there are no noticeable detrimental affects to be seen. The limiting factor to this would be the danger of mult-crossing of lines, which could become severely affected in someway. These animals could also become available to none scientific research thereby limited access/release could not be controlled.

Cost-benefit analysis.

- Cost-benefit should be kept under review. Ideas of cost-benefit should be published from time-to-time for all project licence holders.
- If more than one group is working on the same problems how does this relate to number of animals proposed?

If regulations are increased further it should only be minor alterations. If required regulations must be updated, but serious thought should be given if it adversely affects research.

Question 6

...information available to the public...

- Truth in simple terms. This should be consistent with COST/BENEFIT analysis from the project licence.
- Various leaflets should be found in schools, libraries, doctors surgeries, hospital waiting areas (this can also be targeted for the type of consultation), dentists, advertising in publications. Medical bodies should take an active part in promoting this.
- National health trusts, professional medical/scientific/veterinary bodies. There may need to be a steering body supervising this.
- Most if not all products should carry some information if it involved animals. Split into two categories.
  A) If used for statutory reasons – checking product.
  B) If discovered by scientific research.

  Any surgery techniques/equipment design that resulted from animal research should be conveyed to the patient.

List of Questions

...use of alternatives?
Q3. I would like to see more consideration. Should show more negative/positive
outcomes to this question. This is now being covered more in the project licence.

...ethical issues...
Q4. Some of the ethical issues are covered through the COST/BENEFIT analysis. The
Ethical Review Committees should be required to have laypersons not associated
with the company/institute nor to have a kind of reciprocal agreement with other
companies/institutes.

...UK regulations on research involving animals..

Q5. Regulations are becoming an issue. The paper process is taking over from the effect
it is designed to help.

...information that is available to the public...
Q6. The leaflets produced at the moment are too vague, more factual information should
be available and should be hard-hitting. Need to be more active in disseminating this
information.

A central database for alternatives, new techniques/ideas. Wide base help line. Funded by EU or World body.