



Terms of Reference

FELASA Working Group on the capture and transport of cephalopods

Background

On 1 January 2013, research using any of the about 700 extant species of live cephalopods (i.e. nautilus, cuttlefish, squid and octopus), including hatched juveniles and adults, became regulated within the Directive 2010/63/EU. This legislation covers experimental procedures likely to cause pain, suffering, distress, or lasting harm.

Article 9.1 of the Directive requires that animals must not be taken from the wild for use in procedures, unless an exemption (Article 9.2) has been granted by the relevant National Competent Authority, based on scientific justification to the effect that the purpose cannot be achieved by the use of an animal that has been purpose bred for use in procedures. There are significant difficulties in captive breeding and currently this is not feasible. Research thus relies upon use of wild-caught animals. Where there is scientific justification for using animals taken from the wild, they may only be captured by competent persons using methods which do not cause the animals avoidable pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm (Article 9.3). Care should be taken to prevent physical injury and stress to cephalopods at all stages in the supply chain, including capture, transportation, acclimatisation to laboratory conditions and quarantine where required. Further information on these topics can be found in *Graziano F et al. Laboratory Animals (2015) Vol 49(S2) pp1-90*.

Training and development of competence of all persons involved in the supply chain are essential to ensure that animals do not suffer pain, distress or lasting harm. An education and training framework document has been published by the EC which addresses the requirements for those carrying out procedures, designing procedures and projects, taking care of animals or killing animals (Article 23). The requirements for those capturing and transporting wild animals have not been considered. The aim of the working group will be to propose good practice guidance on the techniques used for the capture and transport of cephalopods for use in scientific procedures.

Tasks, proposed line of work

The working group will:

- Review existing fishing practices for cephalopods
- Review the handling and transport conditions currently in use
- Define criteria to maximise welfare of cephalopods during capture and transport
- Recommend methods of capture and transport
- Develop an education and training programme for fisherman and transporters of cephalopods based on learning outcomes
- Recommend a process for delivering the education and training programme

Composition of the working group

The working group will have 6 to 8 members, some of whom may be Corresponding members. The working group will require a Convenor, a professional cephalopod fisher, a representative from CephsinAction COST, an expert on technical equipment and representatives from FELASA-Member Associations in countries directly involved who can bring expertise in specific techniques and educational specifications.

Budget

A total of 2000 Euro for telephone conferences and 1 to 2 face-to-face meetings.

Deadline

One year after start.

(March 2018)