

# **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES**

April 2014

## **1. Background**

- 1.1.** The National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes (NCPA) is established by the European Union (Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes) Regulations 2012 [SI. No. 543 of 2012].
- 1.2.** The NCPA stood established on 1 December 2013 in accordance with the European Union (Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes)(Amendment) Regulations 2013 [SI. No. 434 of 2013].
- 1.3.** The Chair and Members of the NCPA were appointed by the Minister for Health on 9 January 2014.
- 1.4.** The NCPA is an advisory public body, whose work is facilitated by the HPRA. The NCPA does not have responsibility for the authorisation of use of animals in scientific procedures; these are regulated by the HPRA.

## **2. Terms of reference**

In accordance with Regulation 61 of SI. No. 543 of 2012, the NCPA:

- 2.1.** Is responsible for providing advice to the HPRA and animal welfare bodies of establishments regulated by SI. No. 543 of 2012:
  - On matters dealing with the acquisition, breeding, accommodation, care and use of animals in scientific procedures,
  - Sharing of best practice.
- 2.2.** Shall consider the following issues, where appropriate:
  - Animal care and welfare, and
  - The principles of replacement, reduction and refinement.
- 2.3.** Exchanges information on the operation of animal welfare bodies and project evaluation and share best practice with other national committees of the European Economic Area that have been established pursuant to Article 49 of the Directive [2010/63/EU].
- 2.4.** Shall be independent in the performance of its functions, and the committee and its members shall not be subject to the direction of any other person in the performance of their duties.
- 2.5.** Shall regulate its own procedures and business.

ENDS