

## **National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes**

### **Report of the Meeting on 24 September 2025**

#### 1. Declarations of Interest/Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

#### 2. Introduction of new Director of VSD

Dr David Murphy introduced himself to NCPA members in his new role as the Director of Veterinary Sciences.

#### 3. Minutes of meeting of 07 May 2025

The minutes of the meeting 07 May 2025 were adopted.

#### 4. Matters arising

The NCPA was updated on European Commission's plans to invite National Committee (NC) Chairs to attend the observer session of meetings of the National Contact Points (NCP) for the implementation of Directive 2010/63/EU.

#### 5. Update on HPRAs request for NCPA advice on Forced Swim Test

The report from the NCPA subcommittee on the forced swim test (FST) was discussed with a focus on the draft recommendations in the report. A number of amendments were agreed. In relation to next steps, it was confirmed that the report would be finalised by written procedure and provided to the HPRAs by the end of October 2025. HPRAs colleagues extended thanks to the NCPA subcommittee for their work on the report.

#### 7. Review of feedback from NCPA 3Rs Replacement event

The NCPA reviewed attendee feedback from the 3Rs event that took place on the 8th May 2025. While the feedback was generally very positive – in particular, in relation to content – a number of opportunities for improvement were discussed as well as possible topics for future events.

#### 8. Update on AWB network

An update was provided in relation to the creation of a National Animal Welfare Body (AWB) Network. It was noted that the second meeting of the National AWB network is scheduled for October.

#### 9. EC Updates

##### i. Education and Training (E&T) Framework

An update was provided on progress with revising the EC E&T Framework. It was noted that the stakeholder consultation has concluded. Discussions will continue at the next NCP meeting in November 2025 and it is expected that the document will be finalised during 2026.

##### ii. Annex III and IV implementation dates

The implementation date of the 04 December 2026 for S.I No. 316 of 2025 was noted.

iii.ETPLAS modules

An update was provided on the expansion of the EC funded Education and Training Platform for Laboratory Animal Science (ETPLAS) from six to twenty-three modules.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the NCPA will be scheduled for the end of April or early May 2026 (to be confirmed).

11. AOB

In response to a query from a NCPA member, it was agreed that the topic of effect size – how it is estimated and used to determine sample size for in vivo studies – should be discussed at a future meeting.

ENDS.