

Checklist for Reviewers and Members of Evaluation Panels Assessing Research Proposals Involving Animal Experiments

The SNSF is committed to supporting excellent, original and innovative research that complies with Swiss legislation^{1,2}. However, the SNSF does not intervene in the animal experimentation licence application or assessment procedures, which fall under the sole responsibility of the cantonal authorities.

To ensure the fair and transparent evaluation of research proposals involving animal experiments, the SNSF expects reviewers and members of evaluation panels to thoroughly assess – following the guidance set out in the *Principles and Practices of the Swiss National Science Foundation concerning Research Using Animals* – whether the proposed use of animals is scientifically justified and respects the dignity and welfare of the animals involved.

Specifically, reviewers and panel members are asked to consider the following in their evaluation:

- The scientific necessity and methodological suitability of the proposed research involving animals should be evaluated in relation to its overall objectives.
- The proposed animal species, models, and numbers must be scientifically justified, not unnecessarily duplicative, and supported by valid statistical analyses and appropriate methodological approaches.
- Whether the 3Rs principles (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) have been applied in a meaningful and methodologically sound manner.
- Avoid particularistic ethical judgements or assessing compliance with animal welfare legislation, which lies outside the SNSF's remit.
- Provide constructive, expertise-based feedback to encourage responsible and high-quality study design.

¹ Animal Welfare Act (AniWA): <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2008/414/en>

² Animal Protection Ordinance (AniPO): [SR 455.1 - Tierschutzverordnung vom 23. April 20... | Fedlex](#) / [RS 455.1 - Ordonnance du 23 avril 2008 sur la pr... | Fedlex](#)