

Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules 2004

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THE SCHEDULE Fees

No. S 668

**ANIMALS AND BIRDS ACT
(CHAPTER 7)**

**ANIMALS AND BIRDS (CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS FOR SCIENTIFIC
PURPOSES) RULES 2004**

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 80 of the Animals and Birds Act, the Minister for National Development hereby makes the following Rules:

Citation and commencement

1. These Rules may be cited as the Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules 2004 and shall come into operation on 15th November 2004.

Definitions

2.—(1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires —

“animal” means any live vertebrate, including any fish, amphibian, reptile, bird and mammal but shall not include any human being;

“approved project” means any project that involves the use of any animal for any scientific purpose and that is approved by an institutional animal care and use committee;

“attending veterinarian” means a veterinarian employed by a licensee under rule 11;

“experiment” may consist of one or more separate procedures;

“guidelines” means guidelines issued or adopted by the Director-General under rule 18;

“institutional animal care and use committee” means a committee appointed by a licensee under rule 7;

“investigator” means a person who proposes, or is approved by an institutional animal care and use committee, to conduct an approved project;

“licence” means a licence issued by the Director-General under rule 4;

“licensee” means a person who holds a valid licence;

“personnel”, in relation to a research facility, means all the persons involved in the housing, feeding and general care or use of the animals, or who otherwise assist investigators, in the research facility;

“premises” includes the facilities, buildings, yards, paddocks, grounds and equipment therein;

“project” means an experiment or a series of related experiments that form a discrete piece of work or research for any scientific purpose;

“proposal” means a written outline of a project put forward for the consideration of an institutional animal care and use committee;

“research facility”, in relation to a licensee, means all the premises which belong to the licensee and which are approved by the Authority under the licence for the keeping or use of animals for scientific purposes;

“scientific purpose” means any purpose for which activities (including special breeding requirements integral to a research or teaching project) are performed to acquire, develop or demonstrate knowledge or techniques in any scientific discipline, including the purpose of research, teaching, diagnosis, field trials, product testing, production of biological products and environmental studies;

“veterinarian” means a person with qualifications in veterinary science who is licensed by the Director-General under section 53 of the Act.

(2) For the purposes of these Rules, a person shall be treated as keeping or using animals in his research facility or premises for a scientific purpose if he allows any person to use his research facility or premises for such purpose.

Keeping or using animal for scientific purpose

3. No person, being the owner or occupier or having the management or control of any premises, shall keep or use, or allow any person to keep or use, any animal in those premises for any scientific purpose unless —

- (a) he holds a licence issued by the Director-General under these Rules authorising him to do so;
- (b) the keeping or use of any animal in those premises for any scientific purpose is carried out in accordance with the conditions of the licence;
- (c) the licensee has, in accordance with rule 7, appointed an institutional animal care and use committee and the project involving the keeping or use of the animal for the scientific purpose has been approved by the committee; and
- (d) the licensee has, in accordance with rule 11, employed an attending veterinarian.

Application for and issue of licence

4.—(1) An application for a licence shall be made to the Director-General in such form or manner as the Director-General may require and shall be accompanied by —

- (a) the appropriate fee as specified in the Schedule; and
- (b) such particulars, information and documents as may be specified by the Director-General.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the Director-General may, on receipt of an application under paragraph (1) —

- (a) issue a licence to the applicant, whether unconditionally or subject to such conditions as he thinks fit to impose; or
- (b) refuse to issue any licence to the applicant.

(3) The Director-General shall not issue a licence to an applicant unless —

- (a) the applicant is —
 - (i) carrying on business in Singapore and is registered under the Business Registration Act (Cap. 32);
 - (ii) a company incorporated or registered under the Companies Act (Cap. 50);

- (iii) a statutory body established by or under any written law; or
 - (iv) an institution of higher learning;
 - (b) the functions or course of business of that person involves activities for scientific purposes; and
 - (c) the Director-General is satisfied that the premises in respect of which the licence is being applied for are suitable for the keeping or use of animals for scientific purposes.
- (4) In determining whether to issue or refuse to issue a licence, the Director-General may consider —
- (a) the character and fitness of the applicant to be issued with a licence or, where the applicant is a body corporate, the character and fitness of the members of the board of directors or management committee or board of trustees or other governing body of the body corporate; and
 - (b) the ability of the applicant to operate and maintain the relevant premises in accordance with the requisite conditions and guidelines.
- (5) For the purposes of paragraph (3)(c), the Director-General may, at any time —
- (a) enter and inspect the premises in respect of which the application is made, or cause such premises to be inspected by an authorised officer; and
 - (b) require the applicant, at his own expense, to make such alteration or improvement to such premises or to provide, fix or install such facilities and equipment as the Director-General may specify.
- (6) The Director-General may refuse to issue a licence to an applicant if —
- (a) the applicant or one of his partners or, if the applicant is a body corporate, one of its directors —
 - (i) had previously been convicted of an offence under the Act; or
 - (ii) had previously held a licence issued under the Act and the licence was subsequently suspended or revoked under section 62 of the Act;
 - (b) in the opinion of the Director-General, the applicant —
 - (i) is not able to operate and maintain the relevant premises in accordance with the requisite conditions and guidelines; or