

The current situation of the founding of a consensus platform in Norway

by Live Kleveland,
The Norwegian Animal Welfare Alliance &
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Thanks to:

- Prof. Adrian Smith,
The Norwegian School of
Veterinary Science
- The Norwegian Food Safety Authority

Developments

The Norwegian Parliament, 2003:

‘...requests the government to continue the initiative to establish a national Platform with a fund for research and development, based on the Swedish model.’

The Food Safety Authority, 2004:

Asks the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science to start the work to establish a Platform for alternatives, and provides financial support for the work.

The mandate

1. To identify areas of concern for the 3 Rs in Norway.
2. To gather information about existing Platforms
3. To gather and publish guidelines for animal research
4. To contribute to harmonisation and increased quality of the training in animal experimentation
5. To stimulate to an increased knowledge about fish as experimental animals
6. To assist the group working with a new Animal Welfare Act
7. To publish all the information gathered

Activity - in brief

- Organised a conference on the care and use of fish in research:
<http://oslovet.veths.no/fish>
- Gathered and published guidelines on the care and use of mammals & fish in research:
<http://oslovet.veths.no>
- Approx. 14 publications, including updated information for animal researchers
- Proposed an organisational structure for an *ecopa*-style National Platform in Norway

Selected publications in English

- **The use of databases, information centres and guidelines when planning research that may involve animals**

Smith AJ & Allen T (2005), *Animal Welfare*, 14:347-359

- **Guidelines for health and welfare monitoring of fish used in research**

Johansen R, Needham JR, Colquhoun DJ, Poppe TT & Smith AJ, submitted to *Laboratory Animals*

Selected publications in English

- **Harmonisation of the Care and Use of Fish in Research**
Ryder K, Dennison N, Johansen R & Smith AJ (2005)
Norwegian School of Veterinary Medicine
ISBN 82-7725-114-9
- **Acts and Regulations concerning the Care and Use of Fish in Norwegian Research**
Norwegian School of Veterinary Medicine
ISBN 82-7725-113-0
- **Platforms and Funds for Alternatives to Animal Experimentation**
Kleveland L
- **Compendium in Laboratory Animal Science**
Hem A, Eide DM, Engh E & Smith AJ
Norwegian School of Veterinary Medicine

Reporting the results of animal experiments:

An analysis of 160 articles published in 2004

AJ Smith, AC Munthe & K Strengenhagen,
5th World Congress on Alternatives & Animal Use in the Life
Sciences, Berlin, August 2005

Percentage of articles not mentioning the parameter:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Fish journals</u>	<u>Lab animal journals</u>
Total no. of animals used	55	25
Source	40	30
No. of animals per cage/tank	51	40
Sex	92	8
Genetic makeup	87	52
Age/weight	38	43
Temperature in room/water	15	74
Quarantine/acclimation period	61	73
Microbiological status	84	48
Water source	49	52
Guidelines/code of conduct:	98	10

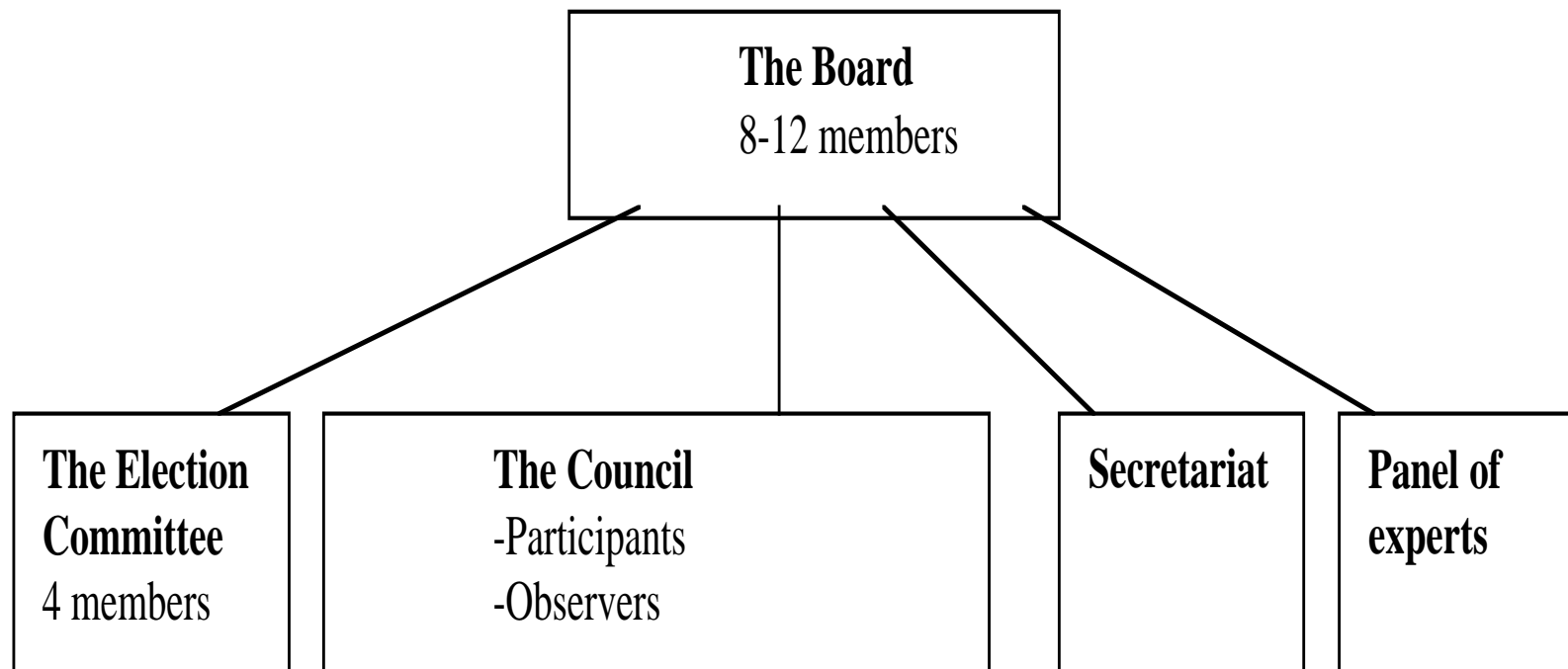
A Norwegian Platform & Fund: criteria

- The Food Safety Authority: The Platform should manage an independent state fund for alternatives.
- *ecopa*: Include representatives from the "four parties", work by the consensus principle, open & democratic.
- Norwegian national legislation.

Proposed organisational structure for a Norwegian Platform

- A foundation governed by a Board.
- Board members represent the general interest of a party (not particular bodies).
- A Council consisting of representatives for the "four parties", which may advise and control the Board and nominate Board members.
- Observers welcomed, and may participate in discussions etc.
- A panel of experts to advise the Board.
- A secretariat to assist the Board.

Proposed organisational structure for a Norwegian Platform & Fund



The future...

- The Food Safety Authority has indicated unofficially that a Platform and a Fund will be established, probably in 2006.
- If the necessary financial basis is presented, a Platform can be formally established within a few weeks.
- When established, the Board of the Platform will decide which areas to prioritize.