Departmental guidelines for work involving the use of animals

General
The Department currently hosts several projects involving the use of mice (inbred, transgenic and knock-out strains), rats, zebrafish and nematode. The main University animal house is located in the Golgi/Spallanzani building (9, via A Ferrata). A small and old animal house is located within the Unit of Physiology (6, via C Forlanini) and is to be downgraded to a simple procedure room.

Animal Safety Officer
The Departmental Animal Safety Officer is Maria Antonietta Pellegrino <map@unipv.it> (telephone: 0382 987935) with whom any new project involving animals should be discussed prior to its commencement. MA Pellegrino acts as chair of the local Organismo preposto al benessere degli animali (OPBA) (see footnote 1 below in Italian).

Procedure
With the exception of projects involving nematode, all other projects require initial approval by a local committee. After this initial stage the project is submitted to Ministry and a reply, ie approval or request for changes or for further information, is received typically within 40 days from submission. MA Pellegrino is willing to advise members of the Department who intend to activate new animal projects and who do not have previous experience of animal procedures.

Induction
At present the University lacks a formal induction procedure for members of staff, including PhD students and post-doctoral fellows, who need to use animals as part of their research project. This arrangement is unsatisfactory because animal workers need suitable and consistent training in order to execute the work productively and in full obeyance to the general rules regulating animal procedures. The Department therefore will take proactive actions toward a course for new animal workers.

E Gherardi,
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