

Advisory Services for Public Authorities, Ministries and Scientists

Sarah Adler

ZEBET at the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment

Upon request of the competent public authorities of the *Laender*, ZEBET scientists examine whether an animal experiment for which an application has been submitted is really indispensable pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act. For this assessment the scientists examine whether the experiment reflects the latest scientific knowledge, whether the test regimen is statistically reliable and whether the number of test animals is kept at a minimum. In addition, scientists who develop alternative methods in research institutes, universities or industry frequently approach ZEBET in order to receive advice on whether the new alternative method is likely to be a suitable replacement for an internationally established animal experiment and how this goal can be achieved. In 2007 ZEBET responded to a total of 457 inquiries from inside and outside Germany.

Another main task of ZEBET is to provide scientific opinions for the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) that is responsible for consumer protection and animal welfare in Germany, e.g. in conjunction with the revision of EU Directive 86/609 which regulates the handling of laboratory animals in the European Union.

Furthermore, ZEBET scientists are sought after experts on the international level in research support programmes for the development of alternative methods and also for evaluating applications for research prizes in the field of alternatives.