# Additional questions on the use of rabbits outside of the UK

UK funders expect high standards in animal research regardless of geographical location. This includes meeting or exceeding UK standards of animal welfare, such as those set out in the UK Home Office [Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Animals Bred, Supplied or Used for Scientific Purposes](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388535/CoPanimalsWeb.pdf) and the NC3Rs guidelines on the [Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility-use-animals-bioscience-research).

Applicants are responsible for obtaining sufficient information to accurately complete the sections below, this includes work that will be conducted by overseas collaborators or contracted to Contract Research Organisations (CROs).

For more information on this form, including guidance on how to complete it, visit the [NC3Rs website](https://nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources/peer-review-and-advice-service).

## Section 1. Checklist of additional questions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The rabbits on this study will be…** | **Yes/No/Not applicable (NA)** |
| 1. Housed in enclosures meet or exceed the space allocations in the UK Home Office [Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Animals Bred, Supplied or Used for Scientific Purposes](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388535/CoPanimalsWeb.pdf) (tables 2-3-1 to 2-3-7). | Select |
| 1. Housed in enclosures with solid, non-slip floors. *Select ‘No’ if a grid or mesh floor is required during any part of the study.* | Select |
| 1. Housed in socially compatible groups for the duration of the study (females and juveniles only). Sexually mature males will be housed with visual and olfactory contact with other rabbits. | Select |
| 1. Provided with all of the following: a) substrate/bedding on a solid floor; b) dietary enrichment and gnawing objects (e.g. chew blocks); c) shelters or tunnels in an appropriate quantity for the group size. | Select |
| 1. Provided with a source of long-strand fibre (e.g. hay). | Select |
| 1. Provided with uncontaminated drinking water at all times. Water is checked daily. | Select |
| 1. Handled gently using an [appropriate method](https://nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources/housing-and-husbandry-rabbit#handling), not by the ears and habituated to gentle handling and human interaction from an early age. *Select ‘NA’ if the rabbits will not be handled.* | Select |
| 1. Provided with access to treatment by a licensed veterinarian as needed and appropriate species-specific health care. | Select |
| 1. Monitored daily in all cases, with the frequency of monitoring increasing as required to keep pain and distress to a minimum for the specific study and intervention (e.g. following surgery or dosing). | Select |
| 1. Monitored using a method of [welfare assessment](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources/welfare-assessment) that allows staff to take prompt and consistent action should a [humane endpoint](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources/humane-endpoints) be reached. *Select ‘No’ if death will be used as an endpoint. Select ‘NA’ if this study will not cause harm, pain or distress to the animals. It is recommended that humane endpoints are established in consultation with the veterinarian and animal care staff and reviewed by the UK Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) before the study commences.* | Select |
| 1. Given anaesthesia and/or analgesia to minimise pain and distress as advised by a veterinarian. *Select ‘No’ if the study is expected to cause pain beyond brief, mild discomfort and anaesthesia and/or analgesia will not be provided to alleviate this. Select ‘NA’ if animals will not undergo any procedures expected to cause pain beyond brief, mild discomfort.* | Select |
| 1. Operated on using a) aseptic technique, b) the least invasive surgical approaches and c) appropriate perioperative care (e.g. pre-operative medications, hypothermic prevention, ophthalmic protection and nursing care where required). *Select ‘NA’ if no surgery will take place.* | Select |
| 1. Humanely killed using methods permitted for the species within the UK Home Office [Guidance on the operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65815e32ed3c3400133bfb07/Guidance_on_the_operation_of_ASPA_-_December_2023.pdf) (Appendix D). *Select ‘No’ if the method is not listed as appropriate method of humane killing of species within Appendix D of this guidance and use Section 2 to indicate the method of killing and provide the name of the guidelines that recommend the method. Select ‘NA’ if the animals will not be killed.* | Select |

## Section 2. Exceptions and additional information

For each item in *Section 1. Checklist of additional questions* where ‘No’ has been selected, provide brief information outlining:

* Why this study will require exceptions to the conditions outlined in the checklist (this should be a scientifically principled justification).
* What action will be taken to mitigate potential animal welfare issues related to this exception.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## Section 3. Declaration

**I confirm that:**

* The information provided within *Section 1. Checklist of additional questions* has been verified by a representative at the institution where the animal work will take place. The representative has confirmed that the conditions outlined in this document will be maintained during the study. The details of the representative are:
  + - Name:
    - Institution:
    - Job title:
    - Email address:
* The animal work taking place outside of the UK will be reviewed by a UK institution’s Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) before the study commences and this document will be provided to the AWERB for their records. The details of the AWERB are:
  + - Institution:
    - Committee/subcommittee name:

|  |
| --- |
| Principal applicant name:  Date: |

\*If you are based at an institution outside of the UK without a UK partner institution and therefore this work cannot undergo review by a UK AWERB, check this box