

Game Materials

AniMotion Decision Making Game © University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover

Case Card (Customizable)

Case Study:

Preselection: Animal species:

Role Cards

Detailed information on the role of the trial management:

Planning the experiment: The principal investigator is responsible for the design of the animal experiment, including the formulation of the hypothesis to be tested, the development of a suitable study design and the selection of appropriate methods and models.

Ensuring compliance with ethical and legal guidelines: The investigator must ensure that the experiment is conducted in accordance with relevant ethical guidelines and legal requirements. This includes adherence to the 3Rs principle (reduce, replace, refine), ensuring animal welfare and compliance with standards of good scientific practice.

Monitoring and supervision of those conducting the experiments: The trial supervisor has the task of supervising and monitoring the trial performers to ensure that the trial is conducted correctly.

Data management and reporting: The principal investigator is responsible for managing the data collected and reporting the results of the experiment.

Detailed information on the role of Independent experimenter:

Conducting the experiment: The independent experimenter conducts the experiment based on the predetermined study design and the hypothesis being tested. It is responsible for the hands-on work with the animals, including administering treatments, taking measurements and performing all other experimental procedures.

Data management: it is also responsible for the collection and recording of data during the experiment. This includes keeping accurate, detailed and complete records of the experiment and its results.

Animal care and welfare: Another important task of the independent experimenter is to look after the welfare of the animals. This means that it must ensure that the animals are well cared for and treated humanely throughout the experiment.

Safety protocols: The independent experimenter must ensure that all safety protocols and guidelines are followed to protect the welfare of the animals and humans involved in the experiment.

Communication: It is his/her responsibility to provide regular updates and reports to the investigator and to report any concerns or anomalies.

Expertise:

Role Cards

Detailed information on the role of the Non-independent experimenter:

Assistance in conducting the experiment: The non-independent experimenter assists in conducting the experiment under the direction and supervision of an independent experimenter. This may include preparing materials, handling animals, performing certain procedures and collecting data.

Animal care: Similar to the independent experimenter, the non-independent experimenter plays a role in caring for the welfare of the animals. Although it may not be the main responsibility, it could be involved in feeding and caring for the animals, monitoring their health and ensuring their general care.

Data management: Depending on their specific role, the non-independent researcher could be involved in data management, including collecting, recording, organizing or analyzing the data.

Compliance with safety protocols: The non-independent experimenter must also comply with all safety measures and adhere to protocols put in place to protect the animals and all humans involved in the experiment.

Expertise:

Detailed information on the role of the animal welfare officer:

Advice and training: The Animal Welfare Officer is often responsible for training and advising employees on ethical standards, legal requirements and best practices in the treatment of animals. It could also play a role in the development and implementation of training programs or policies within the institution.

Monitoring animal testing: One of the most important roles of the animal welfare officer is to monitor animal testing to ensure that it is in line with ethical guidelines and legal requirements. This could include regularly visiting the laboratory, reviewing reports or other forms of monitoring.

Exchange and communication: The animal welfare officer is often the main point of contact for authorities and organizations outside the institution. He or she must represent the institution's interests while ensuring that it fulfills its animal welfare obligations.

Introduction of improvements: In many cases, the animal welfare officer is also involved in the process of implementing and optimizing procedures and practices that improve animal welfare. This may include the introduction of new technologies or procedures that help to reduce animal suffering or reduce the number of animals used in experiments.

Role Cards

Detailed information on the role of the experiment planner:

Planning the experiment: One of the main responsibilities of the experimental designer is to develop a detailed experimental design. This includes defining the research questions, selecting appropriate animal models, determining the number of animals that will be needed, determining the course of the experiments and deciding on data analysis methods.

Compliance with regulations: The experimental designer is also responsible for ensuring that the planned experiment complies with all applicable regulations and ethical guidelines. This may include obtaining approvals and ensuring compliance with the 3Rs principles (Replace, Reduce, Refine).

Management of resources: The trial planner must manage the resources required for the experiment. This includes the budget, the required materials, equipment and animals, as well as the coordination and planning of the research team.

Communication and coordination: Another important role of the experiment planner is to communicate and coordinate activities with the various members of the research team, the experiment supervisor and other stakeholders.

Ressources:

Detailed information on the role of the Animal Welfare Committee:

Evaluation of experiments: One of the main tasks of an animal welfare committee is to evaluate planned animal experiments before they are carried out. The committee reviews the experimental plans and ensures that it meets ethical standards and legal requirements.

Approval of experiments: After the evaluation, the committee grants internal "approval" for the experiment if it concludes that it meets the standards. In some cases, the Committee may require certain conditions or modifications before giving its approval.

Monitoring of ongoing experiments: The committee also monitors ongoing experiments to ensure that it continues to meet the standards. This may include inspections, reviews of reports and investigation of any concerns or complaints.

Development of guidelines: Many animal welfare committees also play a role in developing guidelines and best practices for animal experimentation within their institution. They provide guidance and training for researchers and other staff and ensure that everyone is aware of ethical standards and legal requirements.

Advisory role: The Animal Welfare Committee also serves as a resource and advisory body for researchers, staff and administration on issues related to animal ethics and animal experimentation regulation.

Role Cards

Detailed information on the role of the designated veterinarian/veterinary service:

Health monitoring: The veterinary service continuously monitors the health of the animals and intervenes if symptoms occur. This includes regular checks and treatments.

Compliance with animal welfare guidelines: It ensures that the experiment is carried out in accordance with animal welfare regulations. This includes the strict guidelines for the treatment, care and handling of the animals during the experiment.

Advice and training: Veterinarians provide advice and training to research staff on handling animals, performing procedures and interventions and dealing with emergencies.

Animal management and welfare: The veterinary service strives to minimize animal suffering as much as possible. It looks after the welfare of the animals, including their food and drinking water needs, space requirements, resting and physical activities, as well as their social needs, if applicable.

Protocol development and review: The veterinary service may be involved in the development and review of protocols to ensure that the proposed experiments are acceptable from an ethical and legal perspective.

Pain management: The veterinary service is responsible for reducing and controlling pain, suffering, anxiety and distress to the animals as much as possible during the experiment.

Detailed information on the role of the higher institution (company management, university management):

Policy development and monitoring: The management of an institution is responsible for ensuring that internal policies and procedures on animal experimentation ethics are in place and adhered to. These policies should reflect national and international regulations on animal welfare.

Approvals and certification: Management must ensure that all necessary permits and certifications are in place to conduct animal experiments and that these experiments comply with legal normative requirements.

Financial resources: It is responsible for providing both financial and material resources so that animal experiments can be conducted in the most humane manner. This includes appropriate accommodation, careful supervision, adequate medical care and staff training.

Staff training: The institution is obliged to ensure that all staff involved in animal experimentation are appropriately trained and qualified. This includes ongoing training in relevant areas.

Ethics committee: The establishment and supervision of an ethics committee is another important task. The ethics committee is responsible for assessing the ethical feasibility of proposed experiments and, if necessary, granting approval.

Response planning: It should have a clearly defined plan for dealing with unexpected events or emergencies that takes into account both human staff and animals.

Public relations: The management is also responsible for managing the communication around animal experiments. This may include communicating research findings, describing the importance of the experiments, dealing with criticism and responding to inquiries from the media, public and authorities.

Role Cards

Detailed information on the role of the authorities:

Licensing and approval: Before animal experiments can be carried out, it must be approved by an appropriate authority. This includes reviewing the proposal for ethical acceptability and compliance with legal requirements.

Supervision and inspection: A central task of the authority is to carry out regular inspections and audits to ensure that animal experiments are carried out in accordance with existing regulations and standards.

Imposing sanctions: If the rules and regulations are not complied with, it is the authority's responsibility to impose sanctions, which can range from fines to the revocation of animal testing licenses.

Advice and information provision: The authority can provide advice and information to those conducting animal experiments. This may include updating best practice standards, providing training materials or providing up-to-date information on legislative changes.

Regulation and legislation: The authority also plays a role in the creation and adaptation of laws and guidelines relating to animal testing. It reviews and revises existing regulations and develops new ones where necessary to keep pace with developments in science and technology.

Transparent communication: The authority is often responsible for providing the public with information on the number, type and results of animal experiments. It should encourage interaction with the public and promote an open dialog about animal testing.

Detailed information on the role of the §15 Commission:

Composition: Two thirds of the members of the §15 Commission are persons with a scientific background and are proposed by the testing facility (university, research facility). One third of the members are proposed by animal welfare organizations. The members are therefore mostly laypersons for the animal species, but certainly experts in specific areas of research and ethics.

Advice: The §15 committee makes proposals and advises the authority on applications for projects involving animal experiments. It ensures that the proposed experiment is ethically justified and that there are no alternative methods that would be less painful or stressful for the animals.

Examination and assessment: The commission examines and assesses applications for animal experiments and makes recommendations to the approving authority. It checks whether the planned experiments comply with the Animal Welfare Act and whether the benefits of the experiment outweigh the potential harm to the animal.

Pro and contra list

1 card per criterion

Criterion:

Animal species

Animal species

Animal species

Animal species

	Pro	Contra	Pro	Contra	Pro	Contra	Pro	Contra
Punkte:								

Role: The number of points per criterion is determined by the total number of relevant arguments listed by the “PRO” and “CONTRA” sides. This value may well be negative if more ‘CONTRA’ arguments were found than “PRO” arguments. .

	Criterion 1		Criterion 2		Criterion 3		Criterion 4		Criterion 5		
Points from Pro-/Contra list Animal species 1	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	Σ
Points from Pro-/Contra list Animal species 2	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	Σ
Points from Pro-/Contra list Animal species 3	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	Σ
Points from Pro-/Contra list Animal species 4	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	PRO	CONTRA	Σ

Evaluation of total score

Animal species

Animal species

Animal species

Animal species

Points trial management

Points Experimenter

Points Animal Welfare Officer

Points \$15 Commission

Points Experiment Planner

Points Animal Welfare Committee

Points Veterinary Service

Points Higher Institution

Points Authorities

Total