



01.05.2017

Dignity of the animal: guide to the ‘weighing of interests’

1. Description of the aim of the proposed intervention

2. Presentation of the facts

3. Question of suitability

Can the intended aim be achieved by the proposed intervention?

- Yes -> carry out a weighing of interests
- No -> do not carry out intervention, no need for a weighing of interests

4. Question of necessity

Is the proposed intervention necessary in order to achieve the intended aim, or can the aim be achieved by means that entail less or no strain for the animal?

- No alternative available -> carry out a weighing of interests
- Alternative entailing no strain for the animal is available -> choose alternative, no need for a weighing of interests

- Alternative entailing less strain for the animal is available -> carry out a weighing of interests for the alternative in parallel with that for the proposed intervention -> if the alternative respects the animal's dignity, the alternative should be given preference providing it can be conducted reasonably.

5. Identification and assessment of strain

If an alternative is to be assessed alongside the proposed intervention, this can be done in the same table (use different colours for the proposed intervention and the alternative).

	Are the following forms of strain present?	No	Yes	Which, specifically?	Weighting		
					*	**	***
1	Pain, suffering, anxiety						
2	Harm, especially impairment of growth, reproductive capacity, adaptive capacity, mobility, species-specific social behaviours						
3	Major interference with the appearance						
4	Humiliation, excessive instrumentalisation						
5	Other						

6. Identification and evaluation of legitimate interests

	Are there legitimate interests in the following areas?	No	Yes	Which, specifically?	Weighting			
					*	**	***	****

1	Human and/or animal health							
2	Expanding scientific knowledge							
3	Preservation and improvement of environment							
4	Protection against violation of fundamental rights such as economic freedom, freedom of ownership, freedom of research, freedom of association							
5	Other							

7. Comparison: strain vs. legitimate interests

If an alternative is to be assessed alongside the proposed intervention, this can be done in the same table (use different colours for the proposed intervention and the alternative).

The crucial factors are: the severest form of strain and the most significant interest.

Dignity of the animal is respected		Legitimate interests			
		*	**	***	****
Strain	*	no	yes	yes	yes
	**	no	no	yes	yes
	***	no	no	no	yes

Conclusion: