

Animal Welfare Assessment

“In the Field” | “In a Cage” | “The Psychologist”

- Welfare: the **physical and mental health** of the animal and its lived experiences and conditions (e.g., behaviours that indicate **psychological well-being**)
- **Three indicators:** behavioural; observable health indicators; and complementary physiological indicators
- Animal welfare assessments must be **performed in real time for each animal** (or group of animals)
- A team consisting of **protocol authors and their delegates, veterinarians, and animal care staff** should conduct the assessments
- Frequency of assessments should be **determined based on risks** to animal welfare
- The effects or conditions of a procedure may require a **reassessment of the category of welfare impact** when renewing the protocol

Categories of Welfare Impact

“On Paper” | “In Theory” | “The Armchair Scientist”

- The categories of welfare impact constitute a risk assessment framework for animal use protocols
- **Sixteen factors divided into three categories:** environment; animals; and scientific procedures
- Once each factor is assessed, an aggregation determines the protocol’s **overall prospective category of welfare impact** (for each distinct group of animals in the protocol) at the time of its evaluation
- The **animal care committee** is responsible for confirming and approving the prospective category of welfare impact
- An evaluation of the appropriateness of the assigned category of welfare impact must be carried out **retrospectively** (after a scientific activity, usually when renewing a protocol or at its conclusion)

The assessment of animal welfare makes it possible to define the category of welfare impact and vice versa

