

Animal Research Review Panel Guideline 16A

Supply of dogs and cats for use in research

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Revised: September 2022

Under the *Animal Research Act 1985*, there are special provisions that apply to the supply of dogs and cats for use in research. These provisions are in [Schedule 1 Parts 2 and 3](#) of the *Animal Research Regulation 2021*. These provisions apply unless one of the exemptions from the requirements for animal supply apply – as listed in [Schedule 3](#) of the Regulation.

These provisions include:

- Dogs and cats used in research may only be obtained from, and supplied by, a licensed animal supplier authorised to supply dogs and cats.
- Unowned (stray) dogs and cats, or those from an impounding authority (for example a council pound), cannot be supplied to a licensed animal supplier for use in research.
- Dogs and cats may not be supplied to a licensed animal supplier unless they are accompanied by a declaration from the owner (or agent of the owner) that approval is given for their use in animal research (see [Form N](#) - Licensed Animal Supplier Record for Dogs and Cats).
- Dogs and cats may not be supplied for research until they have been held for at least 5 working days by the licensed animal supplier.
- Within 24 hours of arrival at the premises of the licensed animal supplier dogs and cats must be examined by a competent person, and at least daily after that, until supplied for animal research.
- Immediate veterinary attention must be sought for animals showing signs of illness.
- Within three days of arrival at the premises of the licensed animal supplier, dogs and cats must receive a comprehensive clinical examination by a veterinarian and must be given any treatment considered necessary by the veterinarian.
- Records relating to the care and supply or release of dogs and cats must be kept (see [Form N](#) - Licensed Animal Supplier Record for Dogs and Cats). These records must accompany the animals when they are supplied for research.
- A licensed animal supplier must release dogs and cats to their owners on receiving adequate proof of ownership, and may release dogs and cats to any other person.

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