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Protection of laboratory animals: State Secretary Dr Ophelia Nick visits German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment

Dr Ophelia Nick, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), will visit the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) on Monday 16 October 2023. The programme also includes a visit to the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R). The centre is part of the BfR. It coordinates nationwide activities to limit animal experiments to the indispensable minimum and to provide laboratory animals with the best possible protection. The centre also conducts its own research on alternative methods for animal experiments and on improving the husbandry of laboratory animals.

The German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals is guided by the 3Rs principle for experimental scientific work. The aim of the 3Rs principle is to avoid animal experiments completely (replacement) and to limit the number of animals (reduction) and their suffering (refinement) in experiments as far as possible. Today, it is the basis for animal welfare policy and the practice of modern research approaches in many countries.

Research at the centre includes organ-like tissues (organoids) and test procedures on cells. The refinement approach also aims to improve the housing conditions of laboratory animals such as mice - for example, through specially equipped cages and enclosures adapted to their living habits.

Further information on the BfR website on alternative methods for animal experiments

https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/questions_and_answers_on_animal_experiments___alternative_methods_and_animal_experiment_numbers-197057.html

About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). The BfR advises the Federal Government and the German federal states (“Laender”) on questions of food, chemicals, and product safety. The BfR conducts independent research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

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