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1	Aanvraagformulier				x		x	x		
2	Projectvoorstel				x	x		x		
3	Bijlage beschrijving dierproeven				x	x		x		
4	NTS	x								
5	Apendix				x	x		x		
6	Ontvangstbevestiging				x		x	x		
7	Advies DEC				x		x	x		
8	Advies CCD aan bestuur		x						x	
9	Beschikking en vergunning				x	x	x	x		



20 OKT. 2015

## Aanvraag Projectvergunning Dierproeven Administratieve gegevens

- U bent van plan om één of meerdere dierproeven uit te voeren.
- Met dit formulier vraagt u een vergunning aan voor het project dat u wilt uitvoeren. Of u geeft aan wat u in het vergunde project wilt wijzigen.
- Meer informatie over de voorwaarden vindt u op de website [www.zbo-ccd.nl](http://www.zbo-ccd.nl) of in de toelichting op de website.
- Of bel met 0900-2800028 (10 ct/min).

### 1 Gegevens aanvrager

1.1	Heeft u een deelnemernummer van de NVWA? <i>Neem voor meer informatie over het verkrijgen van een deelnemernummer contact op met de NVWA.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ja > Vul uw deelnemernummer in	90500 / 1160
		<input type="checkbox"/> Nee > U kunt geen aanvraag doen	
1.2	Vul de gegevens in van de instellingsvergunninghouder die de projectvergunning aanvraagt.	Naam instelling of organisatie	BioXpert B.V.
		Naam van de portefeuillehouder of diens gemachtigde	[REDACTED]
		KvK-nummer	54838134
		Straat en huisnummer	Nistelrooise Baan 3
1.3	Vul de gegevens van het postadres in. <i>Alle correspondentie van de CCD gaat naar de portefeuillehouder of diens gemachtigde en de verantwoordelijke onderzoeker.</i>	Postbus	
		Postcode en plaats	5374RE Schaijk
		IBAN	NL72RABO0183605888
		Tenaamstelling van het rekeningnummer	BioXpert BV
1.4	Vul de gegevens in van de verantwoordelijke onderzoeker.	(Titel) Naam en voorletters	[REDACTED] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dhr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mw.
		Functie	[REDACTED]
		Afdeling	Viroclinics Biosciences B.V.
		Telefoonnummer	[REDACTED]
		E-mailadres	[REDACTED]
1.5	<i>(Optioneel)</i> Vul hier de gegevens in van de plaatsvervangende verantwoordelijke onderzoeker.	(Titel) Naam en voorletters	[REDACTED] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dhr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mw.
		Functie	[REDACTED]
		Afdeling	Viroclinics Biosciences B.V.
		Telefoonnummer	[REDACTED]
		E-mailadres	[REDACTED]

1.6 (Optioneel) Vul hier de gegevens in van de persoon die er verantwoordelijk voor is dat de uitvoering van het project in overeenstemming is met de projectvergunning.	(Titel) Naam en voorletters	[REDACTED]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dhr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mw.
	Functie	[REDACTED]	
	Afdeling	Scientific support	
	Telefoonnummer	[REDACTED]	
	E-mailadres	[REDACTED]	
1.7 Is er voor deze projectaanvraag een gemachtigde?	<input type="checkbox"/> Ja > Stuur dan het ingevulde formulier <i>Melding Machtiging</i> mee met deze aanvraag		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nee		

## 2 Over uw aanvraag

2.1 Wat voor aanvraag doet u?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nieuwe aanvraag > Ga verder met vraag 3		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wijziging op (verleende) vergunning die negatieve gevolgen kan hebben voor het dierenwelzijn	Vul uw vergunde projectnummer in en ga verder met vraag 2.2	
2.2 Is dit een <i>wijziging</i> voor een project of dierproef waar al een vergunning voor verleend is?	<input type="checkbox"/> Ja > Beantwoord dan in het projectplan en de niet-technische samenvatting alleen de vragen waarop de wijziging betrekking heeft en onderteken het aanvraagformulier		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nee > Ga verder met vraag 3		
2.3 Is dit een <i>melding</i> voor een project of dierproef waar al een vergunning voor is verleend?	<input type="checkbox"/> Nee > Ga verder met vraag 3		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ja > Geef hier onder een toelichting en ga verder met vraag 6		

## 3 Over uw project

3.1 Wat is de geplande start- en einddatum van het project?	Startdatum	1 - 10 - 2015
	Einddatum	1 - 10 - 2017
3.2 Wat is de titel van het project?	Development of a guinea pig model to study immunogenicity of RSV F vaccines in pups in the presence of RSV F-specific pre-existing immunity by maternal transfer of antibodies.	
3.3 Wat is de titel van de niet-technische samenvatting?	Ontwikkelen van een cavia diermodel voor het uittesten van vaccinatie mogelijkheden voor jonge kinderen tegen respiratoir syncytieel virus (RSV).	
3.4 Wat is de naam van de Dierexperimentencommissie (DEC) aan wie de instellingsvergunninghouder doorgaans haar projecten ter toetsing voorlegt?	Naam DEC	[REDACTED]
	Postadres	[REDACTED]
	E-mailadres	[REDACTED]

## 4 Betaalgegevens

- 4.1 Om welk type aanvraag gaat het?  Nieuwe aanvraag Projectvergunning € Lege  
 Wijziging € Lege
- 4.2 Op welke wijze wilt u dit bedrag aan de CCD voldoen.  
*Bij een eenmalige incasso geeft u toestemming aan de CCD om eenmalig het bij 4.1 genoemde bedrag af te schrijven van het bij 1.2 opgegeven rekeningnummer.*
- Via een eenmalige incasso  
 Na ontvangst van de factuur

## 5 Checklist bijlagen

- 5.1 Welke bijlagen stuurt u mee?
- Verplicht
- Projectvoorstel
- Niet-technische samenvatting
- Overige bijlagen, indien van toepassing
- Melding Machtiging
- 

## 6 Ondertekening

- 6.1 Print het formulier uit, onderteken het en stuur het inclusief bijlagen via de beveiligde e-mailverbinding naar de CCD of per post naar:

Centrale Commissie  
 Dierproeven  
 Postbus 20401  
 2500 EK Den Haag

Ondertekening door de instellingsvergunninghouder of gemachtigde (zie 1.7). De ondergetekende verklaart:

- dat het projectvoorstel is afgestemd met de Instantie voor Dierenwelzijn.
- dat de personen die verantwoordelijk zijn voor de opzet van het project en de dierproef, de personen die de dieren verzorgen en/of doden en de personen die de dierproeven verrichten voldoen aan de wettelijke eisen gesteld aan deskundigheid en bekwaamheid.
- dat de dieren worden gehuisvest en verzorgd op een wijze die voldoet aan de eisen die zijn opgenomen in bijlage III van richtlijn 2010/63/EU, behalve in het voorkomende geval de in onderdeel F van de bijlage bij het bij de aanvraag gevoegde projectvoorstel gemotiveerde uitzonderingen.
- dat door het ondertekenen van dit formulier de verplichting wordt aangegaan de leges te betalen voor de behandeling van de aanvraag.
- dat het formulier volledig en naar waarheid is ingevuld.

Naam	[REDACTED]
Functie	Vergunninghouder
Plaats	Schaijk
Datum	3 - 7 - 2015
Handtekening	[REDACTED]



**BioXpert B.V.**

Nistelrooise Baan 3

5374 RE Schaijk

The Netherlands

T: +31 (0) 486-463303

F: +31 (0) 486-463498

[info@bioxpert.nl](mailto:info@bioxpert.nl)

[www.bioxpert.nl](http://www.bioxpert.nl)

**Aan:** Centrale Commissie Dierproeven  
Postbus 20401  
2500 EK Den Haag

**Datum:** 16 oktober 2015

**Betref:** Aanvraag projectvergunning Dierproeven AVD905002015160

Geachte heer / mevrouw,

Bijgaand de getekende aanvraag Projectvergunning Dierproeven AVD905002015160 met als titel:

*Development of a guinea pig model to study immunogenicity of RSV F vaccines in pups in the presence of RSV F-specific pre-existing immunity by maternal transfer of antibodies.*

Deze aanvraag is vandaag met de beveiligde e-mailverbinding ingediend.

Met vriendelijke groet,

[Redacted signature]



## Form Project proposal

- This form should be used to write the project proposal for animal procedures.
- The appendix 'description animal procedures' is an appendix to this form. For each type of animal procedure, a separate appendix 'description animal procedures' should be enclosed.
- For more information on the project proposal, see our website ([www.centralecommissiedierproeven.nl](http://www.centralecommissiedierproeven.nl)).
- Or contact us by phone (0900-2800028).

### 1 General information

- 1.1 Provide the approval number of the 'Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority'.
- 1.2 Provide the name of the licenced establishment.
- 1.3 Provide the title of the project.

### 2 Categories

- 2.1 Please tick each of the following boxes that applies to your project.
- Basic research
- Translational or applied research
- Regulatory use or routine production
- Research into environmental protection in the interest of human or
- Research aimed at preserving the species subjected to procedures
- Higher education or training
- Forensic enquiries
- Maintenance of colonies of genetically altered animals not used in other animal procedures

### 3 General description of the project

#### 3.1 Background

Describe the project (motivation, background and context) with respect to the categories selected in 2.

- For legally required animal procedures, indicate which statutory or regulatory requirements apply (with respect to the intended use and market authorisation).
- For routine production, describe what will be produced and for which uses.
- For higher education or training, explain why this project is part of the educational program and describe the learning targets.

In the context of vaccine and antiviral compound (hereafter referred to as "antiviral intervention

strategies”) development, the applicant of this project proposal offers (already developed) preclinical models in which these strategies can be tested in relevant in vivo settings. These preclinical models are available at the requestor or can be developed by the requestor to test the strategies for third parties (in general pharmaceutical companies). These third parties make use of the expertise of the requestor for the choice of a particular model to test the strategy.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is responsible for over 30 million new acute lower respiratory infection episodes in children under five, resulting in more than 3.4 million hospital admissions associated with severe RSV disease each year. Over 90% of all RSV-associated deaths are estimated to occur in low and middle-income countries (LMIC). Prophylactic and therapeutic intervention using an RSV-specific antibody is effective and reduces severe disease; however this intervention is very costly. With this in mind, two strategic goals for RSV vaccine development (noting that global disease burden is focused on low and middle income countries, LMIC) have been proposed by the WHO:

- maternal/passive immunization in order to prevent RSV disease in those under 6 months; and
- active paediatric immunization in order to prevent RSV disease in infants and young children beyond the time window served by maternal immunization.

Prenatally, maternal antibodies are actively transferred to babies through the placenta and as such could provide prophylactic protection against subsequent infection during early life. Enhanced disease as seen in the 1960s is not applicable since the mothers have been in contact numerous times with RSV and are therefore not prone to develop enhanced disease and additionally this enhanced disease is not transferrable from mother to child. Thus, vaccination strategies aimed at inducing high levels of antibodies in pregnant mother are important candidate vaccines to be used against protection of young babies. However, since maternal antibodies tend to wane over time, it is also important to investigate whether vaccination of the very young is possible in the presence of maternally derived antibodies. Additionally, vaccines that prove to be very immunogenic in the proposed model could also be used in other target populations at risk.

A number of RSV vaccine candidates are in development of which vaccines based on the RSV fusion (F) protein are the most promising candidates. The RSV F protein is one of three glycoproteins of RSV and a major target against which immunological responses are generated. Also, the RSV F protein is highly conserved between different strains of RSV, in contrast to the attachment (G) protein, and is highly expressed, in contrast to the M2 protein, after infection. Therefore the RSV F protein represents an important target able to induce broad reaction when used as vaccine antigen. Finally, a monoclonal antibody with neutralizing capacity that target the RSV F protein has shown to reduce RSV disease burden in high-risk infants. Therefore it is reasoned that vaccination with the F protein of RSV could mimic the protection observed after passive transfer of a commercially available F-specific monoclonal antibody preparation. Since in general proteins themselves are not very immunogenic, the immune response during vaccination may have to be boosted by the use of an appropriate, clinically relevant, adjuvant (Adjuphos). This adjuvant has been shown to be effective without the occurrence of adverse effects in several preclinical models, including mice, cattle, and macaques ( [REDACTED] ).

Different animal models are available for studying intervention strategies against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), that each have their strengths and weaknesses. The choice for a particular animal model will depend on the study objective in question. This is discussed in detail with the sponsor during design of the studies. Of all preclinical models for RSV infection, both placentation and trans-placental transfer of maternal antibodies in guinea pigs is comparable to humans (prenatal transfer of antibodies to the foetus). Additionally, the species of choice has to be susceptible to infection with RSV. Therefore the

guinea pig is the most optimal model for this project's objectives:

- Transfer of RSV-specific maternally derived antibodies to new-born pups
  - The effect of RSV-specific pre-existing immunity in new-born pups on vaccination early after birth
- In contrast, other small animal models are either less susceptible to infection (mice), susceptibility is not known (rats) or antibodies are not transferred transplacentally (cotton rats, mice and ferrets).

The placentation of the guinea pig is comparable to humans: antibodies can be transferred from the mother to the "child" via trans-placental transport. Maternal immunity is the main early defence against infectious agents in new-borns. Transfer of IgG is transported through either the colostrum or the placenta. Of the (5) different classes of antibodies, only IgG can be transferred through the placenta. The number of membranes separating the maternal and foetal blood circulation determines the placenta types found in different species: epitheliochorial, synepitheliochorial, endotheliochorial or hemochorial. Humans and guinea pigs have hemochorial placentas, through which maternal IgG transfer is mediated by neonatal Fc receptors (FcR), that are specific for the Fc portion of IgG. Guinea pig gestational periods are lengthy compared to other rodents, ranging from 65-70 days (████████████████████), through which the relative length of pregnancy and the development of the young at the time of delivery closely resemble that of humans.

As the guinea pig has a placental architecture which is similar to that of humans, and there is prenatal transfer of antibodies to the foetus, this model has been established for research into infectious diseases, especially prevention and treatment of maternal-foetal transmission of cytomegalovirus (████████████████████). Also, maternal immunization against RSV has been studied in guinea pigs. Pups born to immune mothers (by RSV infection) have been shown to acquire serum-neutralizing antibodies to RSV and shown significant protection compared to pups born from non-immune mothers (████████████████████). These features render the guinea pig a useful model to study trans-placental transfer of (RSV specific) antibodies and the effect of these maternally derived antibodies on immunization strategies against RSV early after birth, thus in the presence of pre-existing immunity.

This project proposal will be used to set up a guinea pig model to investigate the immunogenicity of newly developed RSV vaccines in the presence of pre-existing immunity by transfer of RSV-specific maternal antibodies. Separate animal experiments (not part of this project proposal) will aim at the most optimal vaccination regime in order to generate (high) levels of serum (neutralizing) antibody responses in adult animals. In the studies to be performed within this project, the effect of these maternally derived antibodies on vaccination of pups with newly developed replicating RSV vaccines (i.e. vector vaccines) will be investigated by assessing both immunogenicity (the ability to generate RSV specific immune responses) and efficacy (the ability to protect from challenge infection with RSV) of these vaccines. Results can be used to assess whether pre-existing immunity in young children by maternal transfer of RSV-specific antibodies can hamper vaccination efficacy in very young infants (one of the most susceptible target populations to contract severe disease after RSV infection after maternal antibodies have waned). The latter one of the goals set by the WHO in the prevention of RSV-induced disease (see above).

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### **3.2 Purpose**

Describe the project's main objective and explain why this objective is achievable.

- If the project is focussed on one or more research objectives, which research questions should be addressed during this project?
- If the main objective is not a research objective, which specific need(s) does this project respond to?

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The main objective of this project proposal is to develop a guinea pig model to study immunogenicity of RSV F vaccines in the presence of RSV F-specific pre-existing immunity by maternal transfer of antibodies. It has been shown by others that prenatal transfer of antibodies do occur in guinea pigs as

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they do in humans, therefore the guinea pigs provides a good model to study this. Additionally, the results from this study will be used to conduct an efficacy study to investigate the protective efficacy after vaccination in the presence of pre-existing immunity. Since it has been shown that guinea pigs are susceptible to infection, the model can also be used for future efficacy studies. Additionally, the requestor of this project has a lot of experience in the development of different preclinical models and a number of these models have been published in peer-reviewed journals (e.g. [REDACTED]). This expertise ensures that the objectives will be achieved: development of a guinea pig model to study immunogenicity of RSV F vaccines in pups in the presence of RSV F-specific pre-existing immunity by maternal transfer of antibodies.

### 3.3 Relevance

What is the scientific and/or social relevance of the objectives described above?

In general, RSV causes relatively mild common cold-like upper respiratory tract infections in individuals of all ages. However, RSV also plays a major part in the annual number of people succumbing to lower respiratory tract infections; global RSV disease burden is estimated at 64 million cases and 160000 deaths every year (WHO, 2009). Especially vulnerable target populations include new-borns, children below the age of 2, elderly, individuals with underlying co-morbidities like heart and lung diseases or immunocompromised individuals. Even after extensive research and development, a vaccine for any of the above groups is still not available. Numerous vaccination strategies have been explored, however since RSV infection continues to occur, even in sero-positive individuals, vaccines have to do "better" than the infection itself. Additionally, an important target population for protection against disease are the very young, but vaccination is either difficult or not in time to protect against disease which mostly occur very early after birth. To protect the very young, maternal vaccination during pregnancy is an important point to consider. Numerous RSV vaccines in development are seeking a specific recommendation for use during pregnancy ([REDACTED]). As such, regulatory agencies in e.g. the United States are working with industry to delineate the processes to develop and approve vaccines for use during pregnancy ([REDACTED]). Treatment, either prophylactic or therapeutic, using an RSV-specific antibody preparation has shown to be effective to reduce disease burden after RSV infection. Prophylactic treatment of the very young before start and during the yearly RSV season has shown that disease burden can be controlled leading to reduction of hospital admissions. Unfortunately, this treatment is very expensive and therefore not feasible to be used in developing countries. It has been estimated that 99% of the deaths caused by RSV infection in the first year of life occur in the developing countries, which cannot benefit from costly intervention strategies as explained above. Therefore, a lot of effort has been taken by both the WHO and [REDACTED] to translate affordable possibilities in protection against RSV. [REDACTED] is an organization that translates ideas into health solutions, with a focus on child survival, maternal and reproductive health, and infectious diseases focused on the developing countries. However, breakthroughs in this research can also be translated to the developed countries ([REDACTED]).

Although mortality due to RSV infections in the very young are rarely seen, quality of life could be raised if the very young are protected due to transfer of maternal antibodies in the first period of life. Additionally, since maternally antibodies tend to wane over time, early vaccination of the target population (the very young) is also important. As been shown ([REDACTED]) that RSV-specific antibodies are readily detectable at six months of age, but are mainly absent at twelve months of age. To protect the target population, vaccination has to start early after birth to be able to protect at the time that the maternally derived antibody levels are diminished. This poses another problem, being that vaccination has to be performed in the presence of specific antibodies, which could negatively interfere in the effectiveness of the vaccination. These antibodies could bind both the vector to be used, but also the transgene and thus preventing the induction of an immune response. A potentially promising vaccination strategy against RSV is either attenuated RSV viruses or recombinant (either or not replication deficient) viruses expressing one or more RSV proteins. Attenuated RSV viruses could pose a problem, because it has been shown that it is difficult to find a proper balance between attenuation and immunogenicity. Recombinant viruses, either or not replication deficient, could be a better candidate, since expression of

the transgene (i.e. the main target for induction of immune responses, in the project proposal these will be RSV genes) can be driven by the choice of the vector. These vector vaccines are promising candidates to test in the guinea pig model described in this project proposal. Since the vector can replicate in the host, the transgene is highly expressed and therefore it is suggested that high levels of protection can be achieved after vaccination even in the presence of pre-existing immunity.

### 3.4 Research strategy

#### 3.4.1 Provide an overview of the overall design of the project (strategy).

For a schematic overview of the study set-up see Appendix 1: Study design

The most optimal vaccination regime (antigen in absence or presence of adjuvant) will be investigated in a separate experiment (AVD905002015154). Based on the results of those studies two regimes will be selected for priming (before mating) and boosting (after mating and before partum) of female guinea pigs (mothers to be). As positive and negative control the following control groups are included in the study design: infection with RSV (induction of antibodies after natural infection) and priming with PBS (no presence of RSV-specific immunity in mothers and subsequently the pups). The choice of positive control group (infection with RSV) is based on published data by Buraphacheep et al, who showed that antibodies induced by natural infection could be transferred prenatally to the pups and resulted in detectable RSV-specific neutralizing levels post partum. Additionally, the levels as measured in the pups were comparable to levels measured in the mothers indicating efficient prenatal transfer of antibodies. Earlier studies have shown that the main neutralizing component in the humoral immune response to RSV is directed to the RSV-F protein and this is also confirmed by the prophylactic and therapeutic efficacy of a commercially available neutralizing antibody preparation (Synagis), which is RSV-F protein specific and protects against infection/RSV disease in the very young. Whether also RSV-F protein specific antibodies as induced by vaccination with protein are able to transfer the placenta has been shown by [REDACTED] in which mothers to be were vaccinated using F-protein in the absence or presence of an adjuvant. Results showed that the induced neutralizing RSV F-specific antibodies were actively transferred prenatally and were readily detectable in the pups. Since the specific nature of the vaccine is different between the published study (nanoparticle) and the here proposed study (protein), the data cannot be compared directly with regards to induction of neutralizing antibody responses and the subsequent prenatal transfer to the pups. Therefore, a gate keeper is included in the study in which guinea pigs will receive an RSV infection before mating, which will induce neutralizing antibody responses, that are subsequently transferred to the pups as shown by Buraphacheep et al. After birth, the pups of each group are randomly divided over three groups receiving empty vector (vector control group), a specific vaccine (vaccine group) or PBS (negative control group). On regular time-points during the study (both in the mothers and in the pups) blood samples are collected to determine the functional antibody levels against RSV, through which the immunogenicity of the vaccines can be determined.

For challenge infection with RSV, used to assess the efficacy of the vaccines, a GO / NO GO selection point has been included: based on the results of the levels of functional antibodies it may be decided whether or not to challenge the pups with RSV. If the antibody levels of the pups remain stable or rise over time after booster vaccination of the pups, it can be concluded that an immune response has been induced even in the presence of maternally derived antibodies. This warrants efficacy assessment of the vaccine through challenge infection of the pups.

#### 3.4.2 Provide a basic outline of the different components of the project and the type(s) of animal procedures that will be performed.

To study the trans-placental transfer of maternally derived antibodies (MDA) and the influence of MDA on the immunogenicity and efficacy of neonatal vaccination with viral vectors expressing the RSV F protein, the following components make up the study design:

- Vaccination of females (mothers to be) to induce RSV F specific antibody responses (vaccine groups, RSV infected group (positive control), PBS group (negative control)
  - Upon synchronization, each group of [REDACTED] will be primed and a blood samples will be drawn at regular time-points.
- Fertilization of females of all groups and the delivery of pups to which the vaccine induced RSV F

specific antibody responses (MDA) are transferred transplacentally during gestation.

- Each group of females is allowed to interact with the male used for co-habitation, with the aim to induce pregnancies in all females.
- After mating, the females will receive a booster vaccination. Two weeks later, females from all groups will be sampled for blood to allow serological analysis of antibody responses.
- Delivery of pups is allowed to occur naturally (the gestation period is approximately 63 days).
- Immunogenicity of viral vector vaccines in the presence of MDA through prime-boost vaccination of pups
  - Post partum, blood will be drawn at regular time-points from mothers and pups of all groups. After delivery, pups from each group of mothers will be assigned to three study subgroups.
  - In order to allow synchronization of post-natal vaccination, the pups will be vaccinated (prime) within a period of 7 days after birth. Vaccination will coincide with s.c. implantation of a microchip for identification purposes. The pups of each subgroup will be i.m. vaccinated with either a vector control, the vector vaccine or PBS (negative control).
  - Four weeks after priming, the pups of all subgroups will receive a booster vaccination, which will be the same as the prime vaccination.
- Serological analysis of RSV neutralizing antibody titers in pups to be used as selection points: GO / NO GO for assessment of vaccine efficacy to protect pups against challenge infection with RSV. This GO / NO GO will be dependent on the vaccine to be used in the pups and the expected levels of RSV-specific neutralizing antibodies raised. This will be decided for each separate experiment in close consultation with the Sponsor as well as the IvD.
  - After the booster vaccination, the pups blood will be sampled every two weeks for serological analysis of RSV virus neutralizing antibody responses to allow the assessment of the immunogenicity of the vaccine regimen. The outcome of these analyses determines whether or not the animals will be challenged with RSV (GO / NO GO) one week later.
  - If challenge with RSV is a NO GO, a final sample will be taken at 9 weeks after booster vaccination and the animals will be euthanized (end point of immunogenicity study).

Animals that are to be challenged will receive RSV via i.n. administration. Challenged animals will be followed up until day 7 after infection, on which they will be euthanized and blood and relevant tissues will be taken to perform virological, histopathological and immunochemistry analyses to allow assessment of efficacy of protection against RSV infection.

3.4.3 Describe the coherence between the different components and the different steps of the project. If applicable, describe the milestones and selection points.

The current project proposal consists of only 1, internally coherent, study.

3.4.4 List the different types of animal procedures. Use a different appendix 'description animal procedures' for each type of animal procedure.

Serial number	Type of animal procedure
1	Development of a guinea pig model to study immunogenicity of RSV F vaccines in pups in the presence of RSV F-specific pre-existing immunity by maternal transfer of antibodies.
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	



## Appendix

### Description animal procedures

- This appendix should be enclosed with the project proposal for animal procedures.
- A different appendix 'description animal procedures' should be enclosed for each type of animal procedure.
- For more information, see our website ([www.centralecommissiedierproeven.nl](http://www.centralecommissiedierproeven.nl)).
- Or contact us by phone (0900-2800028).

### 1 General information

1.1 Provide the approval number of the 'Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority'.	90500	
1.2 Provide the name of the licenced establishment.	BioXpert	
1.3 List the serial number and type of animal procedure.  <i>Use the serial numbers provided in Section 3.4.4 of the Project Proposal form.</i>	Serial number	Type of animal procedure
	1	Development of a guinea pig model to study immunogenicity of RSV F vaccines in pups in the presence of RSV F-specific pre-existing immunity by maternal transfer of antibodies.

### 2 Description of animal procedures

#### A. Experimental approach and primary outcome parameters

Describe the general design of the animal procedures in relation to the primary outcome parameters. Justify the choice of these parameters.

This study aims at testing an RSV vaccine for prevention of RSV infections in young children. Since the presence of specific maternally derived antibodies could interfere in the efficacy of the vaccination in these young children, the current project has been designed. Of all animal models for RSV, guinea pigs prove to be representative to humans: animals are susceptible to infection and placentation is comparable between humans and guinea pigs. Thus, maternal antibodies can be transported from the mother to the pup and their effect can be studied on vaccination efficacy.

The primary outcome parameters of the study are the induction of neutralizing antibody responses in pups in the presence of pre-existing immunity.

It has been shown by others that maternally derived antibodies in guinea pigs tend to have a short half-life of about 7-8 days. Thus, stable or rising neutralization responses are a good primary outcome for the induction of immune responses in the presence of pre-existing immunity.

Guinea pigs have been used by others for infection and efficacy experiments and it has been shown that guinea pigs are susceptible for infection with RSV. Animals show replication of the virus in the lower respiratory tract and RSV-induced pathology with mild and transient symptoms. These parameters indicate that this model is suitable to show efficacy of the vaccination strategy in the pups.

If it is decided that the animals will be challenged (see GO description below) based on the serological

results in the pups after prime-boost, it may be decided to challenge the animals with RSV. In the case of a challenge, the reduction in viral load will become a secondary outcome parameter next to the primary outcome parameter induction of neutralizing antibody responses in the pups.

Describe the proposed animal procedures, including the nature, frequency and duration of the treatment. Provide justifications for the selected approach.

Before start of the study, the immunogenicity of the to be used vaccines (with respect to dose and need for adjuvation) is tested in their capacity to induce high levels of neutralizing antibodies. The results from this immunogenicity study will be used to determine the vaccination regime of the mothers.

A schematic representation of the design of the studies is provided in Appendix A. Time points given in the schedule are an indication, specific time points may vary slightly from study to study, depending on the vaccine preparations to be tested.

All administration (microchip administration, vaccination, and infection), sampling (blood) and euthanasia procedures will be performed under isoflurane anaesthesia.

Blood sampling will be performed via the vena cava cranialis or vena saphena, depending on accessibility and volumes will not exceed 8 ml/kg/28 days. For serological analysis approximately 0.2-0.4ml of whole blood (i.e. approximately 0.1-0.2ml of serum) is needed per time point. Considering the body weight of a adult female (~700g) and a pup (~100g at birth) and a maximum number of 3 blood collection point per four weeks, the total volume will not exceed the maximum allowed total volume of blood taken from mothers (5.6ml) and pups (0.8ml).

The animals will be checked daily and weighed weekly to monitor their general health status.

- Animals  $\geq 6$  weeks of age will enter the facilities. The animals will be randomly assigned to four groups, which will consist of ■■■■■ and ■■■■■ each. Females will be housed in groups of ■■■ and cohabitated with ■■■■ male. The conditions will be that the animals can see and smell each other but without the possibility of physical interaction. This will be made feasible by separating the females and the male by means of e.g. chicken wire. This co-habitation will be part of the acclimatization period and allow synchronization of the oestrous cycle of the females. During this acclimatization period the behaviour of the animals is closely monitored and if signs of stress are observed in one or more of the males, males can be transferred to another group of ■■■■ females. The change of the latter will be small, as is described in section B.

NB: unlike for instance rats in which co-habitation can lead to stress, it has been shown that co-habitation of guinea pigs in which the animals can see and smell each other but not physically interact, does not lead to stress and is recommended. According to the "Guidelines for the housing of Guinea pigs in Scientific Institutions" in the "Animal Research Review Panel" it is described that animals should not be housed individually, but in case of separation the animals should be in visual, auditory and olfactory contact with other animals.

- After synchronization, each group of ■■■ females will be provided subcutaneously between the scapulae with microchips for identification purposes and either be primed intramuscularly (i.m.) with RSV-F protein vaccines (treatment groups 1 and 2) or intranasally (i.n.) infected with RSV (positive control group 3) or i.m. provided with PBS (negative control group 4). The maximum volume to be applied i.m. will not exceed 0.1 ml per injection site with a maximum of two injection sites/vaccination time point. RSV inoculation volume to be applied i.n. will not exceed 0.2 ml (0.1 ml per nostril). This RSV infection will cause mild transient respiratory symptoms. Also, a blood sample will be drawn.
- Depending on the outcome of an immunogenicity study to be performed before this study (not part of this project proposal, this information will be part of the working protocol that will be provided to the IvD), an additional vaccination before mating may be required. At this time point, a blood sample will be taken as well. Next, each group of females is allowed to interact with the male used for co-habitation, with the aim to induce

pregnancies in all females. After mating has completed, the males cohabitated with females primed with protein or PBS, groups 1, 2 and 4 will be separated from the females for eventual re-use. Males cohabitated with females infected with RSV (group 3) will be euthanized by exsanguination.

- Approximately 4 weeks after priming, the females of groups 1, 2 and 4 will be (booster) vaccinated with RSV-F protein vaccines (groups 1 and 2) or PBS (group 4). Two weeks later, females from all groups will be sampled for blood to allow serological analysis of antibody responses.
- Delivery of pups is allowed to occur naturally (the gestation period is approximately 63 days).
- Post partum, blood will be drawn from mothers and pups of all groups. Also, the pups will be provided with a microchip for identification purposes through s.c. implantation. The pups from each group of mothers will be randomly assigned to three study subgroups (1.1 – 1.3; 2.1 – 2.3; 3.1 - 3.3; 4.1 – 4.3; see Appendix A) without the pups being weaned from their mother. Group sizes will depend on the litter sizes obtained for a specific study group consisting of 4 females. Numbers given in Appendix A are an estimation based on an average litter size of three and a success rate of mating of 75% (3 out of 4). After delivery, each mother and her litter will be housed separately.
- In order to allow synchronization of post-natal vaccination (and for model development purposes in case of efficacy studies), all pups will be vaccinated (prime) 7 days after the birth of the first pups (i.e. all pups will be vaccinated on the same calendar day). This method will not interfere with the outcome of the study, since it has been shown by others (e.g. Pavia et al 1996) that the half-life of IgG antibodies in guinea pig pups is approximately 7 days.
- The pups of all subgroups will be i.m. vaccinated; each subgroup 1 will receive a vector control preparation, subgroup 2 will receive the vaccine and subgroup 3 will receive PBS. The maximum volume to be applied i.m. will not exceed 0.05 ml per injection site with a maximum of two injection sites/inoculation. This synchronization of the pups is expected not to have an influence of the outcome of the study. It has been described in other models that the half-life of maternally derived antibodies in guinea pigs is more than 7 days indicating that the effect of pre-existing immunity by transfer of maternally derived antibodies can be studied when synchronizing vaccination of the pups.
- One week after vaccination of the pups, blood will be sampled for serological analysis.
- Three weeks after birth, pups will be weaned and housed in groups of 4 at most for each gender, depending on the number of females and males born in each litter (i.e. females and males from the same litter will be housed together). If in one litter only one animal is born of a certain gender, the following will be applied. In case of a female, groups will be formed with other females from other litters. In case of a male, the animal will be housed individually, but will be provided additional cage enrichment material and the animal will be in visual, auditory and olfactory contact with other guinea pigs.
- 2 to 5 weeks after priming, the pups of all subgroups will receive a booster vaccination, which will be the same as the prime vaccination.
- After the booster vaccination, blood from the pups will be sampled every two weeks for up to six weeks after the booster vaccination for serological analysis of RSV virus neutralizing antibody responses to allow the assessment of the immunogenicity of the vaccine regimen.
- The outcome of these analyses determines whether or not the animals will be challenged with RSV (GO / NO GO) one week later. For RSV the correlates of protection are not known implicating that a certain neutralization value cannot be given above which animals may be challenged. However, since maternally derived antibodies tend to wane over time, stable or rising antibody levels of the pups indicate that an immune response has been induced even in the presence of maternally derived antibodies. This warrants efficacy assessment of the vaccine through challenge infection of the pups. Therefore, challenge infection with RSV can occur at either 3, 5 or 7 weeks after booster vaccination depending on the results of the serological assays.
- If challenge with RSV is still a NO GO based on the serological analysis of the samples

obtained at 7 weeks after booster vaccination, a final blood sample will be taken at 9 weeks after booster vaccination and the animals (mothers and pups) will be euthanized by exsanguination followed by a lethal dose of sodium pentobarbital.

Groups of animals that are to be challenged with at one of the selected time points will receive a maximum volume of 200 µl of RSV via the i.n. route (max. 100 µl/nostril) at the specified time. Challenged animals will be followed up for a period of 7 days, on which they will be euthanized and blood and relevant tissues will be taken to perform virological, histopathological and (immune-) histochemical analyses to allow assessment of efficacy of protection against RSV infection.

Describe which statistical methods have been used and which other considerations have been taken into account to minimise the number of animals.

Power calculation.

Since this is the first study in which the effect is studied of pre-existing immunity by maternally derived antibodies on prime-boost immunization in guinea pig pups, no exact power calculation for the size of the prime-boost pup groups can be performed. Main read-out in these experiments is the immunogenicity of the prime-boost regime in the pups and based on a number of assumptions the following group size can be calculated based on  $\alpha=0.05$ , power=0.8 and SD of 4 and a difference between groups of 5-6 (log<sub>2</sub> transformed VNA titers), the required group size of the pup groups is estimated to be approximately  $\blacksquare$  to  $\blacksquare$  ( $N=2*(2.8*SD/(mean1-mean2)^2)$ ). To form homogeneous groups, the pups from different mothers will be randomized over the three different treatment groups after birth (without being weaned). If the results of the first study prove otherwise, the power calculation will be adjusted for future studies or randomization will be based on the generated titers being transferred from the mothers. The latter being part of the model development described in this project proposal.

Additionally, pups are challenged to show whether they are protected against challenge after prime-boost in the presence of pre-existing immunity. It has been shown by Overbaugh and Richardson (JV 2005) that the minimal number of animals needed to show vaccine efficacy after challenge is  $\blacksquare$ , therefore group-sizes as mentioned above will always result in significant differences between the groups if there is effect of the treatment.

## **B. The animals**

Specify the species, origin, estimated numbers, and life stages. Provide justifications for these choices.

Species: Outbred SPF female and male guinea pigs (Dunkin Hartley strain). For justification of this animal model see refinement in D. In close consultation with the breeder, the males will be selected to be both proven breeders and socialized to the female animals. This will ensure that stress during co-habitation is highly unlikely and the highest change of successful mating after synchronization.

Origin: registered breeder.

Life stage:  $\geq 6$  weeks of age at the start of the study. Males have to be proven breeders.

Vaccination will be performed in females because trans-placental transfer of maternal antibodies to pups will be assessed. The life stage is chosen since the guinea pigs should be capable to reproduce between the first and the second vaccination.

Estimated numbers: total number of animals in a 2-year period:  $\blacksquare$  males,  $\blacksquare$  females and  $\blacksquare$  pups.

A typical setup would be the determination of immunogenicity in the presence of pre-existing immunity using two different prime-boost regimens in mothers compared to RSV-infected mothers and naïve mothers (PBS primed). When vaccinating the resulting pups with three different regimes (empty vector, vaccine and PBS), per prime-boost regimen of the mothers approximately  $\blacksquare$  pups are needed. It is estimated that 75% of all females successfully mate resulting in litters of approximately 3-4 animals. Thus to generate a maximum of  $\blacksquare$  animals per experimental pup group for vaccination with the three options (vector, vaccine or PBS) i.e.  $\blacksquare$  animals,  $\blacksquare$  females should be used with  $\blacksquare$  males  $\blacksquare$  male for  $\blacksquare$  females). In a typical setup 4 different prime (and boost) regimes will be used leading to the following numbers of males and females to be able to test prime-boost in a calculated number of  $\blacksquare$  pups:

- Males:  $\blacksquare$
- Females:  $\blacksquare$
- Pups:  $\blacksquare$  (based on an average litter size of 3.5 and a 75% mating success).

It is anticipated to perform two of these studies in a 2-year period leading to a total number of males, females and pups of  $\blacksquare$ ,  $\blacksquare$  and  $\blacksquare$ , respectively.

### C. Re-use

Will the animals be re-used?

No, continue with question D.

Yes > Explain why re-use is considered acceptable for this animal procedure.

All males used in cohabitation with females receiving either protein or PBS, can be re-used. Males used in cohabitation with females infected with RSV cannot be re-used.

Are the previous or proposed animal procedures classified as 'severe'?

No

Yes> Provide specific justifications for the re-use of these animals during the procedures.

### D. Replacement, reduction, refinement

Describe how the principles of replacement, reduction and refinement were included in the research strategy, e.g. the selection of the animals, the design of the procedures and the number of animals.

Replacement: This study is designed to study trans-placental transfer of maternal antibodies and the effect of maternally derived antibodies on vaccination of pups. There is no in vitro system available that models trans-placental transfer of maternal antibodies and immunogenicity of vaccine preparations.

Refinement: the guinea pig was chosen as an animal model because this study will be used to determine the influence of maternally derived antibodies on the immunogenicity and efficacy of candidate RSV vaccines. Trans-placental transfer of maternal antibodies in guinea pigs is similar to that in humans (Borghesi, Open J. of Anim. Sciences, 2014). These features, including the guinea pig's reproductive characteristics and susceptibility to RSV (Buraphacheep, JID, 1997) makes this the model of choice to perform the study described in this proposal, and also limits the use to female animals only. In contrast, it has been shown by others that other small models might be available. However, these models have serious drawbacks due to less susceptibility to infection (mice), unknown susceptibility (rats) or antibodies are not transferred transplacentally (cotton rats, mice and ferrets).

Reduction: statistical analysis provided in section A ensures maximum likelihood of significant results using a minimum number of animals. GO / NO GO: based on RSV neutralizing titers observed in pups after prime-boost vaccination, it can be decided to challenge the pups to assess vaccination efficacy of the prime-boost regimen in the presence of pre-existing immunity by maternally derived antibodies to protect from RSV infection. It has been shown by others that maternally derived antibodies in guinea pigs tend to have a short half-life of about 7-8 days. Thus, stable or rising neutralization responses are a good primary outcome for the induction of immune responses in the presence of pre-existing immunity. This ensures that a study setup does not have to be repeated for efficacy assessment. This GO / NO GO decision will be communicated with the IvD. Because of the explorative nature of the study, it is anticipated that one or two studies will be performed to gather enough data for power calculations in future experiments. With this information a new project proposal can be designed based on power calculations with the data obtained in the studies described in this project proposal.

Explain what measures will be taken to minimise 1) animal suffering, pain or fear and 2) adverse effects on the environment.

1) The animals will be housed in groups, in specific cages that include enrichment assets as described above. If in a single litter only one male is born, this animal will be housed individually with additional cage enrichment and the animal will be allowed to interact with other animals via visual, auditory and olfactory contact. Throughout the study, the animals will be observed daily to assess their general health status. Sampling and administration procedures are performed by qualified personnel and under anaesthesia to minimize discomfort and stress.

2) The experiment will be performed under DM-I conditions, except for animals that receive a replicating vector (pups) and/or RSV preparations (mothers), which will be housed under DM-II conditions after administration of these preparations. All procedures will be performed in DM-I or DM-II equipment/facilities for which destruction procedures for handling of waste have been established.

### Repetition and duplication

**E. Repetition**

Explain what measures have been taken to ensure that the proposed procedures have not already been performed. If applicable, explain why repetition is required.

Not applicable

**Accommodation and care****F. Accommodation and care**

Is the housing and care of the animals used in experimental procedures not in accordance with Annex III of the Directive 2010/63/EU?

No

Yes > If this may adversely affect animal welfare, describe how the animals will be housed and provide specific justifications for these choices.

**G. Location where the animals procedures are performed**

Will the animal procedures be carried out in an establishment that is not licenced by the NVWA?

No > Continue with question H.

Yes > Describe this establishment.

Provide justifications for the choice of this establishment. Explain how adequate housing, care and treatment of the animals will be ensured.

**Classification of discomfort/humane endpoints****H. Pain and pain relief**

Will the animals experience pain during or after the procedures?

No > Continue with question I.

Yes > Will anaesthesia, analgesia or other pain relieving methods be used?

No > Justify why pain relieving methods will not be used.

Yes > Indicate what relieving methods will be used and specify what measures will be taken to ensure that optimal procedures are used.

**I. Other aspects compromising the welfare of the animals**

Describe which other adverse effects on the animals' welfare may be expected?

- Complications due to repeated blood sampling e.g. hematomas/stress
- In the animals that will be challenged with RSV, moderate transient respiratory symptoms may be observed.

Explain why these effects may emerge.

- Moderate, transient respiratory symptoms may occur because of the RSV infection characterized by a slightly elevated respiratory rate and nasal exudate.

Indicate which measures will be adopted to prevent occurrence or minimise severity.

- Throughout the study, the animals will be observed daily for their general health status. Animals will be weighed weekly, when there is an indication for weight loss, weighing will be performed on a daily basis. Humane endpoints are defined.

## J. Humane endpoints

May circumstances arise during the animal procedures which would require the implementation of humane endpoints to prevent further distress?

No > Continue with question K.

Yes > Describe the criteria that will be used to identify the humane endpoints.

In general, no abnormalities are expected during the study other than mild respiratory symptoms due to the RSV infection of group 3 as characterised by slightly elevated respiratory rate during the first two weeks after infection after which the respiratory rate should have normalised. If these respiratory symptoms aggravate, as characterized by labored breathing, the respective animal will be euthanised (the same holds true for the pups if there is a GO to challenge the pups).

The following more general humane endpoints during the course of the study will be used to prevent further distress. The animals will be observed daily to assess the total body scores with respect to overall condition and the overall performance of the animals. If the body condition scoring deviates from normal, this will be registered for the respective animal and this animal is monitored more frequently. Animals displaying an underconditioned body condition in combination with one of the humane endpoint mentioned below will be euthanised. If an animal displays an emaciated body condition, the respective animal will be euthanised directly. The latter two body conditions are highly unlikely due to the nature of the vaccines, which are also safe for human use, and the respiratory symptoms caused by RSV in guinea pigs, which are mild and transient in nature.

- Reduction of body weight greater than 20% compared to normal body weight adjusted for age (see table below) animals are not expected to grow much more after 13 weeks of age:

Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13 and onwards
410	460	500	540	580	620	650	680

Animals are weighted every week. If the body weight stagnates or decreases slightly (<5%) in two consecutive weekly measurements, the animal is weighted more frequently. If the body weight continues to stagnate or decrease or if the body weight decreases between two measurements with 5-10% the animal is housed solitary to monitor the respective animal more closely with regards to food and water intake. The food intake is monitored by weighing back the food pellets and the water intake by checking the water level in the bottle. Furthermore the overall body score will be assessed including condition of the skin.

- More than moderate circulation issues as characterized by pale or cyanotic ears as an indication of poor blood circulation. Since RSV infection will not spread systemically in this model, these symptoms are not expected. If they do occur the colour of the ears is compared to a colour guide. The respiratory symptoms are described above.

Behaviour and movements of the animal are more than moderately deviating from routine as characterized by excessive grooming, constant hiding, loss of balance, limping or hopping or ultimately lethargy as observed during daily checks as mentioned above.

Indicate the likely incidence.

Not very likely as clinical symptoms arising because of RSV infection are uncommon and not considered more than moderate in this model.

## K. Classification of severity of procedures

Provide information on the expected levels of discomfort and indicate to which category the procedures are assigned ('non-recovery', 'mild', 'moderate', 'severe').

Sampling of blood under anaesthesia: mild

Sampling of blood and administration of immunogens under anaesthesia: mild

Symptoms due to infection with RSV: moderate

## End of experiment

## L. Method of killing

Will the animals be killed during or after the procedures?

No

Yes > Explain why it is necessary to kill the animals during or after the procedures.

At the end of the study the mothers and the pups will be euthanized. RSV infected animals will be killed to collect respiratory related tissues to determine the viral load and to allow histopathological and immunohistochemistry analysis. A number of the used males can be re-used (see 2C).

Is the proposed method of killing listed in Annex IV of Directive 2010/63/EU?

No > Describe the method of killing that will be used and provide justifications for this choice.

Yes

**Appendix A: Study design**

Immunisation & Sampling Schedule																										
Group	Animals	No/Group	Pups	Week	Study	0	1	5	7	9	10	13	14	16	20	21	22	23	24	25	27	28	29	31	33	
			Group	n	Pregnancy						0	3	4	6	10											
					Age pups										0	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	11	13	
1	Females	█			Start housing ID		Co-hab tate	B Prime a	B	Boost a <sup>o</sup>	Mate	B <sup>o</sup>	Detect Pregnancy	Boost a	B	B post partum		Wean males	B						B <sup>E</sup>	
	Males	█																								
	Pups			1.1	█											B	ID Vector control	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>
				1.2	█											B	ID Vaccine	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>
			1.3	remainder											B	ID PBS control	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>	
2	Females	█			Start housing ID		Co-hab tate	B Prime b	B	Boost b <sup>o</sup>	Mate	B <sup>o</sup>	Detect Pregnancy	Boost b	B	B post partum		Wean males	B						B <sup>E</sup>	
	Males	█																								
	Pups			2.1	█											B	ID Vector control	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>
				2.2	█											B	ID Vaccine	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>
			2.3	remainder											B	ID PBS control	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>	
3	Females	█			Start housing ID		Co-hab tate	B RSV-A2	B		Mate	B <sup>o</sup>	Detect Pregnancy		B	B post partum		Wean males	B						B <sup>E</sup>	
	Males	█																								
	Pups			3.1	█											B	ID Vector control	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>
				3.2	█											B	ID Vaccine	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>
			3.3	remainder											B	ID PBS control	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>	
4	Females	█			Start housing ID		Co-hab tate	B PBS	B		Mate	B <sup>o</sup>	Detect Pregnancy	PBS	B	B post partum		Wean males	B						B <sup>E</sup>	
	Males	█																								
	Pups			4.1	█											B	ID Vector control	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>
				4.2	█											B	ID Vaccine	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>
			4.3	remainder											B	ID PBS control	B	Wean males		B	B***		B***	B***	B <sup>E</sup>	
HOUSING					NORMAL	Groups 1, 2, 4: NORMAL Group 3: DM-II										DM-II										

\* At least 9 successful pregnancies  
 \*\* Expected  
 \*\*\* Go/No-Go for challenge infection with RSV-A2 based on VNA responses in serum at 7, 9 or 11 weeks of age  
<sup>o</sup> Opt onal  
<sup>E</sup> Endpoint, euthanasia

**Abbreviations:**  
 IM = intramuscular                      ID = m crochip administrat on for dentif cat on purposes  
 IN= intranasal                              W = body weight  
 B = whole blood for serum              LW = lung weight  
 T = lung tissue after sacrif cat on

**Analyses:**  
 i. All sera from whole blood will be analysed for VNA against RSV-A2  
 ii. Weight of the whole lung will be measured;  
 iii. Sections of the right lung are subjected to Taqman PCR and virus t tration;  
 iv. The left lung is inflated with 10% formalin for hisopathological assessment;

**RSV challenge & sampling schedule**

8, 10 or 12***		d 0		d 7	
W, B	Intranasal challenge with RSV-A2	W, B	W, T, B, LW, necropsy <sup>E</sup>		
W, B		W, B			
W, B		W, B			
W, B	Intranasal challenge with RSV-A2	W, B	W, T, B, LW, necropsy <sup>E</sup>		
W, B		W, B			
W, B		W, B			
W, B	Intranasal challenge with RSV-A2	W, B	W, T, B, LW, necropsy <sup>E</sup>		
W, B		W, B			
W, B		W, B			
W, B	Intranasal challenge with RSV-A2	W, B	W, T, B, LW, necropsy <sup>E</sup>		
W, B		W, B			
W, B		W, B			
DM-II					



> Retouradres Postbus 20401 2500 EK Den Haag

BioXpert BV

██████████  
Nistelrooise Baan 3

5347 RE SCHAIJK



**Centrale Commissie  
Dierproeven**

Postbus 20401  
2500 EK Den Haag  
centralecommissiedierproeven.nl  
0900 28 000 28 (10 ct/min)  
info@zbo-ccd.nl

**Onze referentie**

Aanvraagnummer  
AVD905002015160

**Bijlagen**

2

Datum 19 oktober 2015

Betreft Ontvangstbevestiging Aanvraag projectvergunning Dierproeven

Geachte ██████████,

Wij hebben uw aanvraag voor een projectvergunning dierproeven ontvangen op 16 oktober 2015.

Het aanvraagnummer dat wij aan deze aanvraag hebben toegekend is AVD905002015160. Gebruik dit nummer wanneer u contact met de CCD opneemt.

### **Wacht met de uitvoering van uw project**

Als wij nog informatie van u nodig hebben dan ontvangt u daarover bericht. Uw aanvraag is in ieder geval niet compleet als de leges niet zijn bijgeschreven op de rekening van de CCD. U ontvangt binnen veertig werkdagen een beslissing op uw aanvraag. Als wij nog informatie van u nodig hebben, wordt deze termijn opgeschort. In geval van een complexe aanvraag kan deze termijn met maximaal vijftien werkdagen verlengd worden. U krijgt bericht als de beslisperiode van uw aanvraag vanwege complexiteit wordt verlengd. Als u goedkeuring krijgt op uw aanvraag, kunt u daarna beginnen met het project.

### **Factuur**

Bijgaand treft u de factuur aan voor de betaling van de leges. Wij verzoeken u de leges zo spoedig mogelijk te voldoen, zodat we uw aanvraag in behandeling kunnen nemen. Is uw betaling niet binnen dertig dagen ontvangen, dan kan uw aanvraag buiten behandeling worden gesteld. Dit betekent dat uw aanvraag niet beoordeeld wordt en u uw project niet mag starten.

### **Meer informatie**

Heeft u vragen, kijk dan op [www.centralecommissiedierproeven.nl](http://www.centralecommissiedierproeven.nl). Of neem telefonisch contact met ons op: 0900 28 000 28 (10 ct/minuut).

Met vriendelijke groet,

Centrale Commissie Dierproeven

Deze brief is automatisch aangemaakt en daarom niet ondertekend.

Bijlagen:

- Gegevens aanvraagformulier
- Factuur



Gegevens plaatsvervangende verantwoordelijke onderzoeker

Naam: [REDACTED]  
Functie: [REDACTED]  
Afdeling: Viroclinics Biosciences B.V.  
Telefoonnummer: [REDACTED]  
E-mailadres: [REDACTED]

Gegevens verantwoordelijke uitvoering proces

Naam: [REDACTED]  
Functie: [REDACTED]  
Afdeling: Scientific support  
Telefoonnummer: [REDACTED]  
E-mailadres: [REDACTED]

**Over uw aanvraag**

Wat voor aanvraag doet u?  Nieuwe aanvraag  
 Wijziging op een (verleende) vergunning die negatieve gevolgen kan hebben voor het dierenwelzijn  
 Melding op (verleende) vergunning die geen negatieve gevolgen kan hebben voor het dierenwelzijn

**Over uw project**

Geplande startdatum: 1 oktober 2015  
Geplande einddatum: 1 oktober 2017  
Titel project: Development of a guinea pig model to study immunogenicity of RSV F vaccines in pups in the presence of RSV F-specific pre-existing immunity by maternal transfer of antibodies.  
Titel niet-technische samenvatting: Ontwikkelen van een cavia diermodel voor het uittesten van vaccinatie mogelijkheden voor jonge kinderen tegen respiratoir syncytieel virus (RSV).  
Naam DEC: [REDACTED]  
Postadres DEC: [REDACTED]  
E-mailadres DEC: [REDACTED]

**Betaalgegevens**

De leges bedragen: € 741,-  
De leges voldoet u: na ontvangst van de factuur

**Checklist bijlagen**

Verplichte bijlagen:

- Projectvoorstel
- Beschrijving Dierproeven
- Niet-technische samenvatting

Overige bijlagen:

- DEC-advies

**Ondertekening**

Naam:



Functie:

Vergunninghouder

Plaats:

Schaijk

Datum:

3 juli 2015



> Retouradres Postbus 20401 2500 EK Den Haag

BioXpert BV

Nistelrooise Baan 3

5347 RE SCHAIJK



**Centrale Commissie  
Dierproeven**

Postbus 20401  
2500 EK Den Haag  
centralecommissiedierproeven.nl  
0900 28 000 28 (10 ct/min)  
info@zbo-ccd.nl

**Onze referentie**

Aanvraagnummer  
AVD905002015160

**Bijlagen**

2

Datum 19 oktober 2015

Betreft Factuur aanvraag projectvergunning Dierproeven

**Factuur**

Factuurdatum: 19 oktober 2015

Vervaldatum: 18 november 2015

Factuurnummer: 15700160

Omschrijving	Bedrag
Betaling leges projectvergunning dierproeven Betreft aanvraag AVD905002015160	€ 741,00

Wij verzoeken u het totaalbedrag vóór de gestelde vervaldatum over te maken op rekening NL28RBOS 056.99.96.066 onder vermelding van het factuurnummer en aanvraagnummer, ten name van Centrale Commissie Dierproeven, Postbus 20401, 2500 EK te 's Gravenhage.



De vragen d.d. 25-07-2015 hadden betrekking op:

- Titel van het project in overeenstemming brengen met het beschreven project.
- Onderbouwing van het diermodel, in het bijzonder de meerwaarde van het te ontwikkelen model in de cavia ten opzichte van reeds bestaande modellen in de muis en de rat.
- Haalbaarheid van het onderzoek en een indicatie of het te ontwikkelen model ook kan dienen voor het bestuderen van vaccinveiligheid.
- Onderbouwing van het experimental design voor wat betreft het opnemen van zowel een positieve controlegroep (infectie met RSV) als een groep die wordt gevaccineerd t.b.v. het opwekken van antilichamen tegen RSV.
- Beschrijving van de te hanteren criteria t.b.v. de go/no go beslissing.
- Uitwerking en onderbouwing van het experimental design (logistiek) en een berekening van de groepsgrootte die logisch aansluit bij het experimental design.
- Details m.b.t. de experimentele handelingen (randomiseren van de pups en al dan niet verdelen over verschillende moeders, tijdstip van vaccinatie van de pups, frequentie en volumina van bloedafnames bij moeders en pups).
- Risico inschatting van complicaties van de bloedafnames en de bewaking daarvan.
- Beschrijving van de te verwachten klinische verschijnselen na challenge.
- Opnemen van meer relevante en gevoelige HEP-criteria, afgestemd op type experiment en de desbetreffende dieren.
- Inschatting en beschrijving van het ongerief.
- Uitwerking van de 3 V's.
- Tekstueel en redactioneel (verduidelijking en onderlinge afstemming van bepaalde tekstpassages en correcte invulling van de verschillende documenten.

De vragen d.d. 22-09-2015 hadden betrekking op:

- Toelichting en onderbouwing van het experimental design v.w.b. de positieve controlegroep en de groep die gevaccineerd wordt t.b.v. het opwekken van antilichamen tegen RSV.
  - Redactioneel: m.b.t. illustratie van klinische symptomen bij punt J.
  - Redactioneel m.b.t. NTS: in overeenstemming brengen van de beschrijving van de doelstelling (bij punt 3.2) conform de titel van de NTS en de tekst bij 3.1.
- Datum antwoord: 01-09-2015 en 06-10-2015
  - Strekking van de antwoorden: de vragen en opmerkingen van de DEC zijn naar tevredenheid beantwoord; aanvraag na bijstelling volledig en duidelijk.
  - De antwoorden hebben geleid tot aanpassing van de aanvraag.
9. Eventuele adviezen door experts (niet lid van de DEC): n.v.t., de DEC zelf beschikt over de relevante expertise.

## **B. Beoordeling (adviesvraag en behandeling)**

1. Het project is vergunningplichtig (dierproeven in de zin der wet)
2. De aanvraag betreft een nieuwe aanvraag.
3. De DEC is competent om hierover te adviseren.
4. Geen van de DEC-leden is betrokken bij het betreffende project of de aanvrager.

## **C. Beoordeling (inhoud):**

1. Het project is:
  - X uit wetenschappelijk oogpunt verantwoord
2. De in de aanvraag aangekruiste doelcategorieën zijn in overeenstemming met de hoofddoelstellingen.
3. De DEC onderschrijft het belang van de doelstelling. Het wordt ingeschat als een substantieel belang.

Infectie met Respiratoir Syncytial Virus (RSV) speelt wereldwijd een belangrijke rol bij ziekte en sterfte als gevolg van een lagere luchtweginfectie. Infectie met RSV is wereldwijd verantwoordelijk voor jaarlijks meer dan 30 miljoen nieuwe gevallen van lagere luchtweginfecties bij kinderen jonger dan 5 jaar en jaarlijks ca. 3,4 miljoen ziekenhuisopnames in verband met een ernstige RSV besmetting. Ca. 90% van met RSV samenhangende sterftegevallen komen voor in landen met vooral midden- en lage inkomens. Profylactische en therapeutische behandeling met voor RSV-specifieke antilichamen is weliswaar effectief gebleken, maar is erg kostbaar en daardoor nauwelijks toegankelijk voor mensen in ontwikkelingslanden. Daarom is door de WHO een strategie voor vaccinontwikkeling voorgesteld, die zich enerzijds richt op immunisatie van moeders (en daarmee passieve immunisatie van babies) teneinde ziekteverschijnselen als gevolg van RSV te voorkomen bij babies jonger dan 6 maanden en anderzijds een actieve immunisatie van kinderen om RSV te voorkomen bij jonge kinderen op een leeftijd waarin immunisatie van de moeder geen of niet voldoende bescherming meer biedt.

Dit project heeft tot doel het ontwikkelen van een cavia diermodel voor het uittesten van vaccinatiemogelijkheden voor jonge kinderen tegen RSV. Maternale antilichamen, geïnduceerd door een RSV infectie of vaccinatie van de moederdieren, worden via de placenta actief aan de baby doorgegeven en kunnen zodoende beschermen tegen infectie op zeer jonge leeftijd. In de loop van de tijd nemen deze maternale antilichamen echter geleidelijk af, waardoor ze mogelijk niet meer voldoende bescherming bieden. Het is daarom van belang te onderzoeken of vaccinatie van zeer jonge kinderen ook mogelijk is in aanwezigheid van maternale antilichamen, zodat deze kinderen voldoende beschermd kunnen worden, ook wanneer ze niet of minder beschermd zijn door deze maternale antilichamen.

- 4.** De gekozen strategie en experimentele aanpak kunnen leiden tot het behalen van de doelstelling binnen het kader van het project. Doel van het project is het opzetten van een caviamodel om de werkzaamheid van nieuw ontwikkelde RSV vaccins te onderzoeken in het geval van reeds bestaande immuniteit welke is opgewekt door overdracht van RSV-specifieke maternale

antilichamen (van moeder op pup). Uit eerder onderzoek is gebleken dat bij cavia's maternale antilichamen worden doorgegeven op een manier die vergelijkbaar is als bij mensen. Tevens zijn cavia's gevoelig voor RSV infectie, waardoor dit diermodel tevens bruikbaar is om in de toekomst de werkzaamheid van nieuwe vaccins te testen. De instelling heeft bovendien een ruime ervaring in het ontwikkelen van verschillende preklinische modellen.

5. Er is in wettelijk opzicht geen sprake van bijzonderheden op het gebied van categorieën van dieren, omstandigheden of behandeling van de dieren. De keuze hiervoor is voldoende wetenschappelijk onderbouwd.
6. Het ongerief als gevolg van de dierproeven is realistisch ingeschat en geclassificeerd. Het ongerief voor de dieren die een infectie ondergaan is maximaal matig. De overige dieren ondergaan maximaal licht ongerief als gevolg van bloedafnames en vaccinatie.
7. Er zijn geen methoden die de voorgestelde dierproeven geheel of gedeeltelijk zouden kunnen **vervangen**. De cavia is de meest geschikte diersoort voor de beantwoording van de onderzoeksvraag. Voordat de werkzaamheid in proefdieren wordt getest, zijn vaccinkandidaten al in het laboratorium getest. Alleen veelbelovende kandidaten worden in proefdieren getest. Klinische studies mogen pas in mensen uitgevoerd worden als de veiligheid en werkzaamheid in diermodellen is bewezen.
8. In het project wordt optimaal tegemoet gekomen aan de vereiste van de **vermindering** van dierproeven. De resultaten uit de eerste studie zullen gebruikt worden om de aantallen in toekomstige studies verder te berekenen. Hiermee wordt voorkomen dat onnodig te veel dieren worden gebruikt of te weinig dieren worden gebruikt, waardoor de resultaten van het experiment onbetrouwbaar worden. Het maximale aantal te gebruiken dieren is realistisch ingeschat.
9. Het project is in overeenstemming met de vereiste van de **verfijning** van dierproeven en het project is zo opgezet dat de dierproeven zo humaan mogelijk kunnen worden uitgevoerd. De dieren worden volgens de standaard gehuisvest. De meest ingrijpende handelingen worden uitgevoerd onder verdoving. Dieren die meer dan het verwachte ongerief (maximaal matig) ondergaan, worden uit het experiment genomen en zo spoedig mogelijk geëuthanaseerd. Er is geen sprake van belangwekkende milieueffecten.

**10.**

D

e niet-technische samenvatting is een evenwichtige weergave van het project en begrijpelijk geformuleerd.

## **D. Ethische afweging**

Op basis van de overwegingen onder bovenstaand punt C (1 t/m 9) komt de commissie tot de volgende ethische afweging.

RSV-infectie is wereldwijd verantwoordelijk voor een groot aantal ziekte- en sterfgevallen, vooral onder jonge kinderen en in ontwikkelingslanden. Een reeds beschikbare therapeutische en profylactische behandeling gebaseerd op toediening van antilichamen is weliswaar effectief maar zeer kostbaar en daardoor niet of slechts beperkt beschikbaar in deze landen.

Doel van dit project is een cavia diermodel te ontwikkelen voor het uittesten van de vaccinatiemogelijkheden tegen RSV in aanwezigheid van maternale antilichamen. Hiermee wordt een belangrijke stap gezet in het beschikbaar komen van een betaalbaar en goed werkzaam vaccin tegen RSV voor jonge kinderen. De gekozen strategie en experimentele aanpak kunnen leiden tot het behalen van de doelstelling. Naar het oordeel van de DEC dient dit project dan ook een substantieel belang.

Tegenover dit substantiële belang staat het feit dat de dieren in deze experimenten gering en in sommige gevallen matig ongerief zullen ondervinden. De commissie is er van overtuigd dat bij de dierproeven adequaat invulling zal worden gegeven aan de vereisten op het gebied van de vervanging, vermindering en/of verfijning van dierproeven. Het gebruik van de dieren en het daarbij optredende ongerief is onvermijdelijk voor het realiseren van de beoogde doelstellingen.

De DEC is van oordeel dat het hierboven geschetste belang de onvermijdelijke nadelige gevolgen van dit onderzoek voor de dieren, in de vorm van angst, pijn of stress, rechtvaardigt. Aan de eis dat het belang van de experimenten op dient te wegen tegen het ongerief dat de dieren wordt berokkend, is voldaan.

## **E. Advies**

**1.** Advies aan de CCD

De DEC adviseert de vergunning te verlenen.

**2.** Het uitgebrachte advies is gebaseerd op consensus.



**Bezwaar**

Als u het niet eens bent met deze beslissing, kunt u binnen zes weken na verzending van deze brief schriftelijk een bezwaarschrift indienen. Een bezwaarschrift kunt u sturen naar Centrale Commissie Dierproeven, afdeling Juridische Zaken, postbus 20401, 2500 EK Den Haag.

Bij het indienen van een bezwaarschrift vragen we u in ieder geval de datum van de beslissing waartegen u bezwaar maakt en het aanvraagnummer te vermelden. U vindt deze nummers in de rechter kantlijn in deze brief.

Bezwaar schorst niet de werking van het besluit waar u het niet mee eens bent. Dat betekent dat dat besluit wel in werking treedt en geldig is. U kunt tijdens deze procedure een voorlopige voorziening vragen bij de Voorzieningenrechter van de rechtbank in de woonplaats van de aanvrager. U moet dan wel kunnen aantonen dat er sprake is van een spoedeisend belang.

Voor de behandeling van een voorlopige voorziening is griffierecht verschuldigd. Op <http://www.rechtspraak.nl/Organisatie/Rechtbanken/Pages/default.aspx> kunt u zien onder welke rechtbank de vestigingsplaats van de aanvrager valt.

**Meer informatie**

Heeft u vragen, kijk dan op [www.centralecommissiedierproeven.nl](http://www.centralecommissiedierproeven.nl). Of neem telefonisch contact met ons op: 0900 28 000 28 (10 ct/minuut).

Met vriendelijke groet,

Centrale Commissie Dierproeven

namens de



Ir. G. de Peuter  
Algemeen Secretaris

**Bijlagen:**

- Vergunning
- Hiervan deel uitmakend:
  - DEC-advies
  - Weergave wet- en regelgeving

## Projectvergunning

### gelet op artikel 10a van de Wet op de Dierproeven

Verleent de Centrale Commissie Dierproeven aan

Naam: BioXpert BV  
Adres: Nistelrooise Baan 3  
Postcode en plaats: 5347 RE SCHAIJK  
Deelnemersnummer: 90500

deze projectvergunning voor het tijdvak 24 november 2015 tot en met 1 oktober 2017, voor het project "Development of a guinea pig model to study immunogenicity of RSV F vaccines in pups in the presence of RSV F-specific pre-existing immunity by maternal transfer of antibodies." met aanvraagnummer AVD905002015160, volgens advies van Dierexperimentencommissie [REDACTED]

De functie van de verantwoordelijk onderzoeker is [REDACTED] Voor de uitvoering van het project is Voorzitter IvD verantwoordelijk.

De aanvraag omvat de volgende bescheiden:

- 1 een aanvraagformulier projectvergunning dierproeven, ontvangen op 20 oktober 2015
- 2 de bij het aanvraagformulier behorende bijlagen:
  - a Projectvoorstel, zoals ontvangen per digitale indiening op 16 oktober 2015;
  - b Niet-technische Samenvatting van het project, zoals ontvangen per digitale indiening op 16 oktober 2015;
  - c Advies van dierexperimentencommissie d.d. 16 oktober 2015, ontvangen op 16 oktober 2015.

Naam proef	Diersoort/ Stam	Aantal dieren	Ernst	Opmerkingen
Development of a guinea pig model to study immunogenicity of RSV F vaccines in pups in the presence of RSV F-specific pre-existing immunity by maternal transfer of antibodies.	Cavia's (Cavia porcellus) / Dunkin Hartley (outbred SPF)	380	Matig / moderate	[REDACTED] beren, [REDACTED] zeugen en [REDACTED] nakomelingen

**Voorwaarden**

**Op grond van artikel 10a1 lid 2 Wod zijn aan een projectvergunning voorwaarden te stellen**

De vergunning wordt verleend onder de voorwaarde dat go/no go momenten instemming van de IvD krijgen.

# Weergave wet- en regelgeving

## **Dit project en wijzigingen**

Volgens artikel 10c van de Wet op de Dierproeven (hierna de wet) is het verboden om andere dierproeven uit te voeren dan waar de vergunning voor is verleend. De dierproeven mogen slechts worden verricht in het kader van een project, volgens artikel 10g. Uit artikel 10b volgt dat de dierproeven zijn ingedeeld in de categorieën terminaal, licht, matig of ernstig. Als er wijzigingen in een dierproef plaatsvinden, moeten deze gemeld worden aan de Centrale Commissie Dierproeven. Hebben de wijzigingen negatieve gevolgen voor het dierenwelzijn, dan moet volgens artikel 10a5 de wijziging eerst voorgelegd worden en mag deze pas doorgevoerd worden na goedkeuren door de Centrale Commissie Dierproeven.

Artikel 10b schrijft voor dat het verboden is een dierproef te verrichten die leidt tot ernstige mate van pijn, lijden, angst of blijvende schade die waarschijnlijk langdurig zal zijn en niet kan worden verzacht, tenzij hiervoor door de Minister een ontheffing is verleend.

## **Verzorging**

De fokker, leverancier en gebruiker moeten volgens artikel 13f van de wet over voldoende personeel beschikken en ervoor zorgen dat de dieren behoorlijk worden verzorgd, behandeld en gehuisvest. Er moeten ook personen zijn die toezicht houden op het welzijn en de verzorging van de dieren in de inrichting, personeel dat met de dieren omgaat moet toegang hebben tot informatie over de in de inrichting gehuisveste soorten en personeel moet voldoende geschoold en bekwaam zijn. Ook moeten er personen zijn die een eind kunnen maken aan onnodige pijn, lijden, angst of blijvende schade die tijdens een dierproef bij een dier wordt veroorzaakt. Daarnaast zijn er personen die zorgen dat een project volgens deze vergunning wordt uitgevoerd en als dat niet mogelijk is zorgen dat er passende maatregelen worden getroffen.

In artikel 9 staat dat de persoon die het project en de dierproef opzet deskundig en bekwaam moet zijn. In artikel 8 van het Dierproevenbesluit 2014 staat dat personen die dierproeven verrichten, de dieren verzorgen of de dieren doden, hiervoor een opleiding moeten hebben afgerond.

Voordat een dierproef die onderdeel uitmaakt van dit project start, moet volgens artikel 10a3 van de wet de uitvoering afgestemd worden met de instantie voor dierenwelzijn.

## **Pijnbestrijding en verdoving**

In artikel 13 van de wet staat dat een dierproef onder algehele of plaatselijke verdoving wordt uitgevoerd tenzij dat niet mogelijk is, dan wel bij het verrichten van een dierproef worden pijnstillers toegediend of andere goede methoden gebruikt die de pijn, het lijden, de angst of de blijvende schade bij het dier tot een minimum beperken. Een dierproef die bij het dier gepaard gaat met zwaar letsel dat hevige pijn kan veroorzaken, wordt niet zonder verdoving uitgevoerd. Hierbij wordt afgewogen of het toedienen van verdoving voor het dier traumatischer is dan de dierproef zelf en het toedienen van verdoving onverenigbaar is met het doel van de dierproef. Bij een dier wordt geen stof toegediend waardoor het dier

niet meer of slechts in verminderde mate in staat is pijn te tonen, wanneer het dier niet tegelijkertijd voldoende verdoving of pijnstilling krijgt toegediend, tenzij wetenschappelijk gemotiveerd. Dieren die pijn kunnen lijden als de verdoving eenmaal is uitgewerkt, moeten preventief en postoperatief behandeld worden met pijnstillers of andere geschikte pijnbestrijdingsmethoden, mits die verenigbaar zijn met het doel van de dierproef. Zodra het doel van de dierproef is bereikt, moeten passende maatregelen worden genomen om het lijden van het dier tot een minimum te beperken.

#### **Einde van een dierproef**

Artikel 13a van de wet bepaalt dat een dierproef is afgelopen wanneer voor die dierproef geen verdere waarnemingen hoeven te worden verricht of, voor wat betreft nieuwe genetisch gemodificeerde dierenlijnen, wanneer bij de nakomelingen niet evenveel of meer, pijn, lijden, angst, of blijvende schade wordt waargenomen of verwacht dan bij het inbrengen van een naald. Er wordt dan door een dierenarts of een andere ter zake deskundige beslist of het dier in leven zal worden gehouden. Een dier wordt gedood als aannemelijk is dat het een matige of ernstige vorm van pijn, lijden, angst of blijvende schade zal blijven ondervinden. Als een dier in leven wordt gehouden, krijgt het de verzorging en huisvesting die past bij zijn gezondheidstoestand..

Volgens artikel 13b moet de dood als eindpunt van een dierproef zoveel mogelijk worden vermeden en vervangen door in een vroege fase vaststelbare, humane eindpunten. Als de dood als eindpunt onvermijdelijk is, moeten er zo weinig mogelijk dieren sterven en het lijden zo veel mogelijk beperkt blijven.

Uit artikel 13d volgt dat het doden van dieren door een deskundig persoon moet worden gedaan, wat zo min mogelijk pijn, lijden en angst met zich meebrengt. De methode om te doden is vastgesteld in de Europese richtlijn artikel 6.

In artikel 13c is vastgesteld dat proefdieren geadopteerd kunnen worden, teruggeplaatst in hun habitat of in een geschikt dierhouderijsysteem, als de gezondheidstoestand van het dier het toelaat, er geen gevaar is voor volksgezondheid, diergezondheid of milieu en er passende maatregelen zijn genomen om het welzijn van het dier te waarborgen.

De Minister heeft vrijstelling ontheffing verleend volgens artikel 13c, die de afwijkende methode van doden op basis van wetenschappelijke motivering ten minste even humaan acht als de in de richtlijn opgenomen passende methoden.