

Research form – a text-based communication channel supporting culture of care

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The research form serves as a standardised, text-based means of communication between the researchers conducting laboratory animal experiments and the personnel responsible for animal care. Filled out by the responsible researcher, it captures essential experiment details, animal care requirements (including special needs and deviations from standard care), intervention timing, caretaking duties, euthanasia procedures, and needs for biological samples. While ideally used alongside a kick-off meeting, it also proves practical as a standalone tool for recurring experiments and as a reference for on-call caretakers. This presentation will outline the University of Helsinki's research form structure, supplemented with real-life examples, and aims to demonstrate how this tool can be utilised to increase the quality of scientific experiments while also promoting researcher–caretaker rapport and culture of care.