

## **Guideline for Granting the Title "Expert for Laboratory Animal Science GV-SOLAS"**

Laboratory animal science is a basic science of biomedical research with the following aims:

1. Establishment of standardized methods of welfare-compliant housing and husbandry for laboratory animals,
2. Advice for Principal Investigators concerning study design,
3. Optimizing the experimental basis of animal studies and
4. State-of-the-art conduct of animal studies corresponding to medical, biological and animal welfare principles.

The title "Expert for Laboratory Animal Science GV-SOLAS" aims at the recognition of the particular expertise of scientists working in this field. By granting this Title the Society for Laboratory Animal Science (GV-SOLAS) intends to distinguish such persons from others who should not be prevented from calling themselves laboratory animal scientists, but who cannot be considered laboratory animal scientists according to the GV-SOLAS principles. The Title is linked to being a member of the GV-SOLAS. The Title is granted by the GV-SOLAS Executive Board based on the recommendation of the *Commission* in charge (see under 8.).

The Title is granted after written application and is subject to the following conditions (exceptions, if proposed by the *Commission*, can be approved by the Executive Board on a case-by-case basis):

1. The applicant must have been a regular member of the GV-SOLAS for at least 2 years, graduated in (veterinary) medicine or in a natural science discipline, and must provide evidence of at least 4 years of practical work in the area of laboratory animal science. Work in areas related to laboratory animal science, e.g. genetics, microbiology and hygiene, clinical veterinary medicine, animal nutrition and physiology, pharmacology and toxicology or pathology can be taken into account for up to one year.
2. Except for the exemptions defined under 6., professional experience in the area of laboratory animal science can only be acquired under the supervision of a person authorized for such postgraduate training (subsequently called *Authorized Person*) at recognized laboratory animal facilities of universities/colleges or similar national and international research and teaching institutions.

*Authorized Persons* are either Experts for Laboratory Animal Science (GV-SOLAS) or Veterinarians with a postgraduate degree in laboratory animal science who, at the time when the applicant submits the application, have either worked for at least 4 years at an recognized laboratory animal facility or who are Laboratory Animal Science Specialists (FELASA Category D) or ECLAM-Diplomates (ECLAM: European College for Laboratory Animal Medicine).

3. Recognition as a training institution by GV-SOLAS is subject to the following criteria:
  - (a) The Authorized Person must have one of the qualifications mentioned under 2.
  - (b) At least three different laboratory animal species have to be kept on a long-term basis at the training institution. The species have to belong to at least two different taxonomic orders.
  - (c) The animal care and use program must correspond to the current knowledge of laboratory animal science, and must be compliant with the most recent recommendations of GV-SOLAS and applicable legislation.
  - (d) At least one form of a barrier system must be present.
  - (e) Applicants who work at a training institution for which a special agreement exists concerning the number of animal species housed have to acquire professional experience with species of a different taxonomic order for at least 4 month at an appropriate other training institution.
4. The recognition as a training institution will be reviewed by GV-SOLAS every 8 years and can be revoked if the criteria mention under 3. are evidently not fulfilled anymore. Changes at the institution relevant for the recognition as a training institution have to be notified to GV-SOLAS by the *Authorized Person* in a timely manner.
5. The application for being granted the title has to be addressed to the chairperson of the committee "experts on laboratory animal science" of GV-SOLAS. The application of granting the Title has to be co-signed by the head of the training institution or by the *Authorized Person*. Using the valid application form the following has to be submitted:
  - 5.1. A description of the professional career with relevant other documents attached.
  - 5.2. A description providing evidence that the applicant has:
    - basic knowledge of all 17 areas listed in the Appendix,
    - extended knowledge in at least two areas of those listed in the Appendix and
    - comprehensive knowledge in one of the areas listed in the Appendix.

Conformance to these requirements has to be described in detail (on about two pages).

  - 5.3. At least three independent scientific publications in the field of laboratory animal science compliant with the GV-SOLAS principles. In case of multi-author papers the applicant has to describe what part he or she was responsible for.

- 5.4. A statement for GV-SOLAS by the *Authorized Person*.
6. In case all other criteria mentioned under 5. to 5.4 of the guideline for granting the Title are fulfilled the *Commission* may accept an application even in instances when the applicant has not undergone postgraduate training in a recognized training institution (extraordinary training curriculum).
    - 6.1. The duration of an extraordinary training curriculum will be twice as long as that required for the ordinary curriculum. At least three month of this time - which can be split up - have to be a documented time spent at one or several recognized training institutions. For the second half of the training period the applicant has to find an *Authorized Person* advising him or her. The *Authorized Person* has to be qualified according to the criteria mentioned under 2.
    - 6.2. During the training period, the major part of the work of the applicant needs to be in the field of laboratory animal science (a job profile exclusively devoted to experimental animal work is insufficient).
    - 6.3. In addition to the items required under 5.1 to 5.4 of this guideline the applicants have to provide evidence that - within the last five years - they spent at least 200 hours at laboratory animal science conferences or courses.
    - 6.4. In case of an extraordinary training curriculum a final interview (see below) is mandatory.
  7. The application to grant the title will be reviewed by at least four members of the *Commission*. The *Commission* will recommend acceptance or rejection of the application to the Executive Board of the GV-SOLAS. As part of the review process, there will be a final interview with the applicant to be conducted by at least three members of the *Commission*. If necessary, additional external experts may be involved, under particular consideration the information provided by the applicant as related to 5.2. In exceptional cases a final interview may be waived by the *Commission* for the ordinary curriculum. A decision about an application has to be made within 6 months after its submission. A protocol has to be written describing the review process. Based on this protocol, the Executive Board of the GV-SOLAS will grant the Title. A rejection of the application has to be justified in writing. Within 3 months, such a rejection can be appealed in writing to the Executive Board. The Executive Board of GV-SOLAS will inform the *Commission* within reasonable time (8-10 weeks) about granting the Title or the rejection of the application.

A fee of 100,- EUR will be charged for reviewing the application. An additional fee of 200,- EUR will be charged for granting the Title by the GV-SOLAS.

8. The *Commission* which should consist of seven members will be elected every 6 years by the General Meeting of GV-SOLAS based on a proposal of the Executive Board.

## **Appendix**

Relevant areas of Laboratory Animal Science concerning common laboratory animal species:

1. Anatomy
2. Physiology
3. Pathology
4. Behavioral biology
5. Breeding and genetics
6. Reproductive biology and technology
7. Diagnostics and therapy of the most important laboratory animal diseases
8. Disease prophylaxis and laboratory animal hygiene
9. Nutrition
10. Preparation and aftercare of experiments, anesthetic methods and surgical techniques
11. Methods of standardization and monitoring the physical, chemical, microbiological and social environment
12. Housing, husbandry and care
13. Animal experimental techniques
14. Animal models
15. Animal welfare, species protection, relevant legislation, methods of replacement and refinement
16. Personnel training and management
17. Biometrics, planning of studies and evaluation of results