

General welfare assessment score sheet

The welfare assessment score sheet below (adapted from Wolfensohn & Honess 2005) is presented to illustrate the general principles. It should be modified to provide specific information on the condition or research model under investigation – an accompanying excel sheet is available to download.

Animal ID number: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Parameter	Observation	Score	Recorded score
Appearance	Normal	0	
	General lack of grooming	1	
	Coat staring, ocular and nasal discharge	2	
	Piloerection, hunched up	3	
Food and water intake	Normal	0	
	Uncertain: body weight decrease of <5%	1	
	Intake: body weight decrease of 10 – 15%	2	
	No food or water intake	3	
Clinical signs	Normal temperature, cardiac and respiratory rates	0	
	Slight changes in the above	1	
	T ± 10°C, C/R rate change of 30%	2	
	T ± 20°C, C/R rate change of 30% or large decrease	3	
Natural behaviour	Normal	0	
	Minor changes	1	
	Less mobile and alert, isolated from companions	2	
	Vocalisation, self-mutilation, restless or still	3	
Provoked behaviour	Normal	0	
	Minor depression or exaggerated response	1	
	Moderate change in expected behaviour	2	
	Reacts violently, or very weak and precomatose	3	
Score	<i>If you have scored a '3' more than once, score an extra point for each '3'</i>	2-5	
	Total	0-20	
Judgement	0-4	Normal	
	5-9	Monitor carefully, consider analgesics/other treatments	
	10-14	Suffering, provide relief, observe regularly	
	15-20	Severe distress, consider euthanasia	