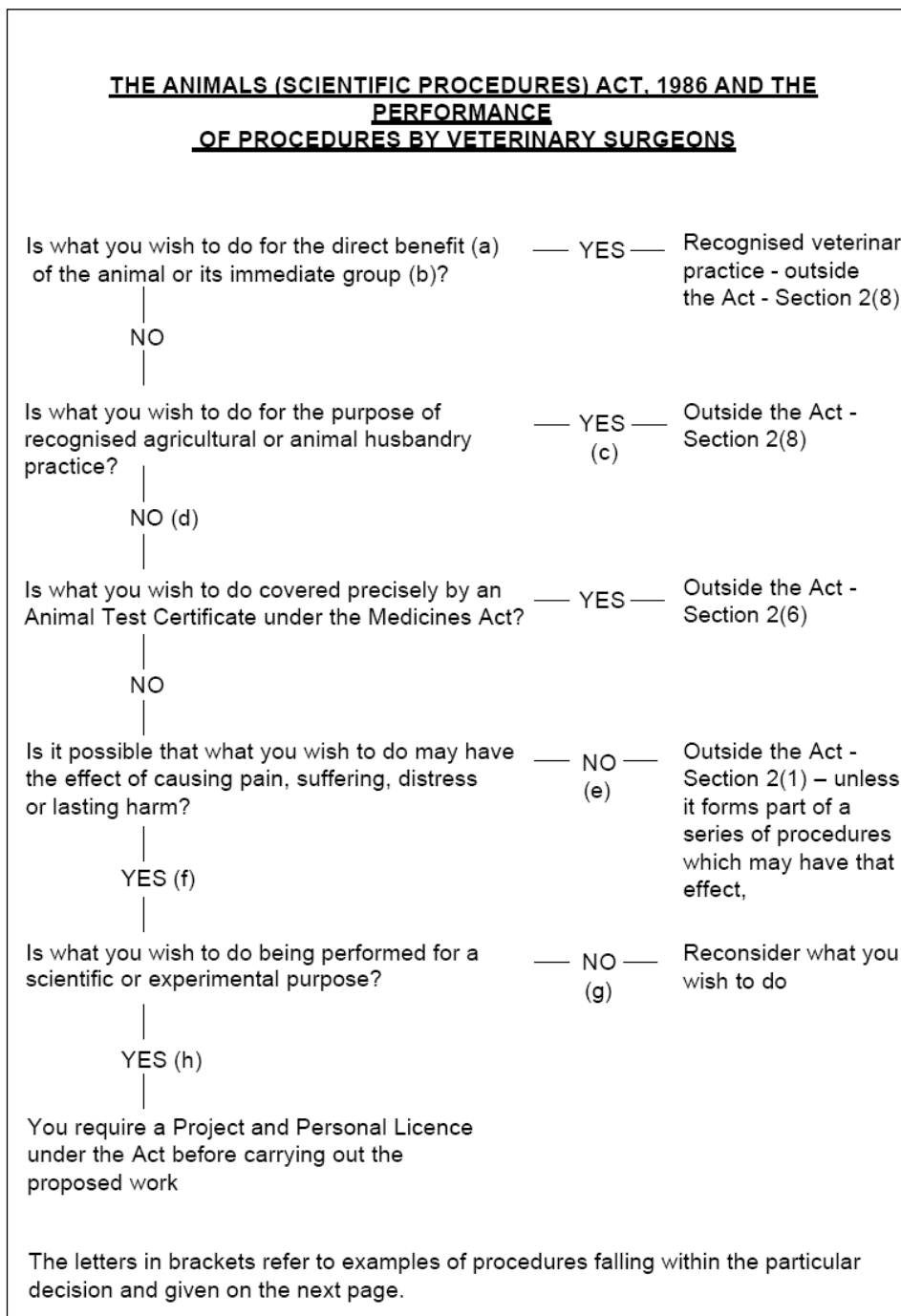


**RCVS ADVICE NOTE 9**

**JOINT RCVS AND HOME OFFICE ADVICE ON THE A(SP)A AND VSA INTERFACE**

Flow chart together with non-exhaustive examples



## EXAMPLES

This list is illustrative and not exhaustive: RCVS advice should always be sought in cases of doubt.

### 1) - direct benefit

- a) taking blood samples from an animal, or animals within a herd, to assist in clinical management e.g. diagnosis, metabolic profile.
- b) taking a series of biopsies from an animal for diagnosis and monitoring the efficacy of treatment
- c) giving veterinary treatment to an experimental animal when treatment is for the animal's benefit
- d) use of drugs in ways other than described in product licence but for direct benefit of animal concerned
- e) NB; anaesthesia for a scientific purpose is regulated.

### 2) - immediate group

- a) the herd or flock under the care of the veterinary surgeon
- b) the pack of dogs or colony of cats under the care of the veterinary surgeon.
- c) the source animal in blood transfusion for use in clinical cases, but not on a larger commercial scale.

### 3) - recognised practice

- a) embryo transfer for expansion of colony, herd or flock for commercial reasons or to improve health status.
- b) testing for halothane susceptibility in pigs
- c) restraint in commercial systems for husbandry purposes e.g. stall tied dairy cows
- d) laparoscopy for A.I.
- e) laparoscopy for observation of the gonads for sexing birds for non-experimental reasons
- f) removal of gonads or hormone administration for control of reproduction in non-experimental situations.
- g) single housing of calves within the provisions of Welfare Codes.

### 4) - not recognised practice

- a) laparoscopy for observation of the ovaries for a scientific purpose
- b) feeding of diets at variance with normal practice e.g. to induce the signs of dietary deficiency.
- c) embryo transfer for scientific purposes

- d) harvesting blood or blood products on a larger commercial scale (see advice from RCVS Professional Conduct department, 2001)
  - e) colostrum deprivation or early weaning for scientific purposes.
- 5) - no adverse effect
- a) feeding of diets at variance with normal practice but which are not intended to result in deficiencies or excess of any dietary component.
  - b) restraint for up to 14 days where expression of normal behaviour, other than locomotion, is not significantly restricted.
- 6) - adverse effect
- a) any penetration of the integument, e.g. use of needle.
  - b) any procedure requiring sedation or anaesthesia
  - c) maintenance in restraint which significantly restricts expression of normal behaviour, for example close head restraint.
  - d) feeding of haematophagous insects.
- 7) - think again
- a) taking into account the provisions of such things as the Veterinary Surgeons Act, the Veterinary Surgeons (Practice by Students) Regulations, 1981, the Animal Health Act, 1981, the Medicines Act, 1968 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.
- 8) - scientific purposes
- a) taking blood for blood products or laboratory use
  - b) taking blood for teaching purposes
  - c) taking biopsies to study the pathogenesis of a condition rather than to diagnose disease or monitor treatment in an animal
  - d) inoculation of material into an animal for diagnosis of disease in another animal
  - e) use of substances, drugs, etc. other than as described in product licence, for research/development and not covered by an ATC.

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