Animal Welfare Assessment Grid (AWAG) User Guide

Contents

Login

You can log onto the system using one of two methods:

1. Active Directory account

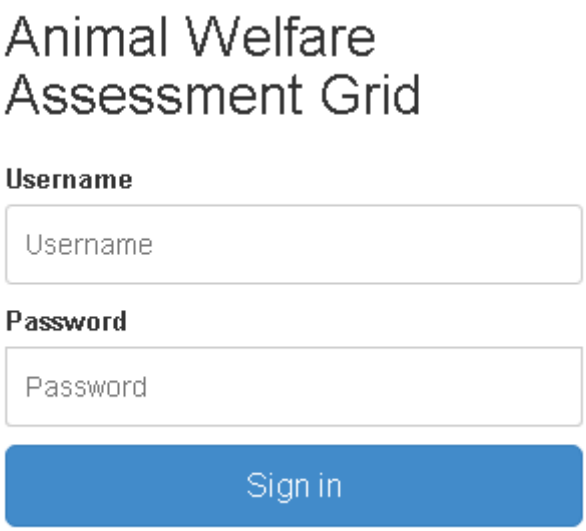
If the system is set up to use your organisation's Active Directory as the authentication system then the user account details will be supplied by your IT department.

2. Basic login

The username and passwords are held in a database and the defaults set to the following:

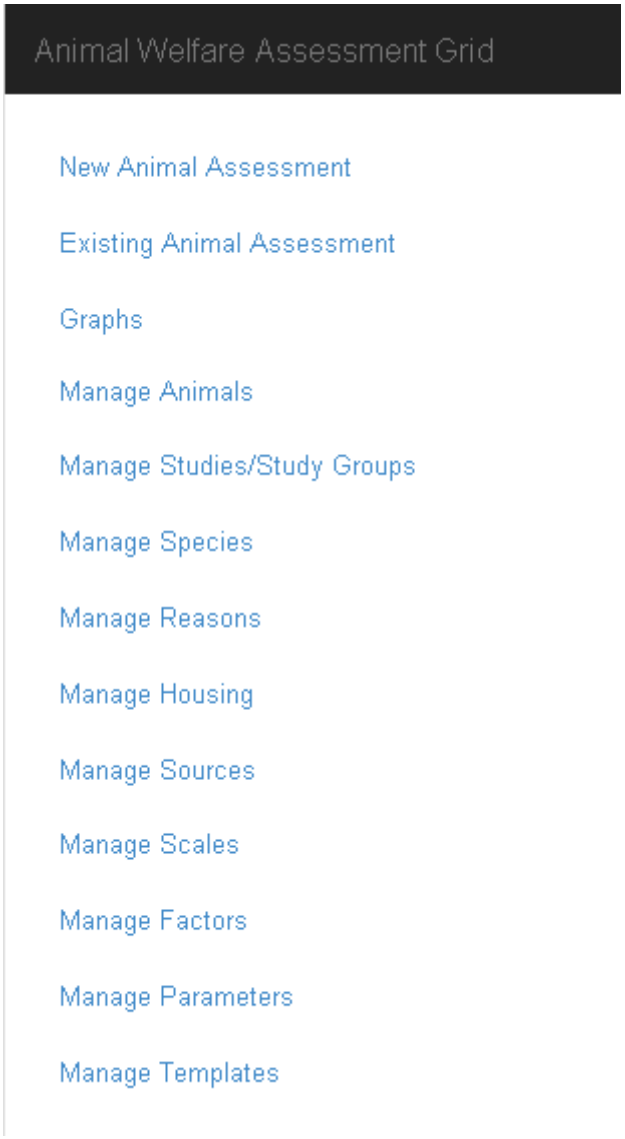
Username: admin

Password: adminadmin



Navigation

Once you have logged in, you can navigate around the system using the menu on the left hand side.



Recommended Parameters and Factors

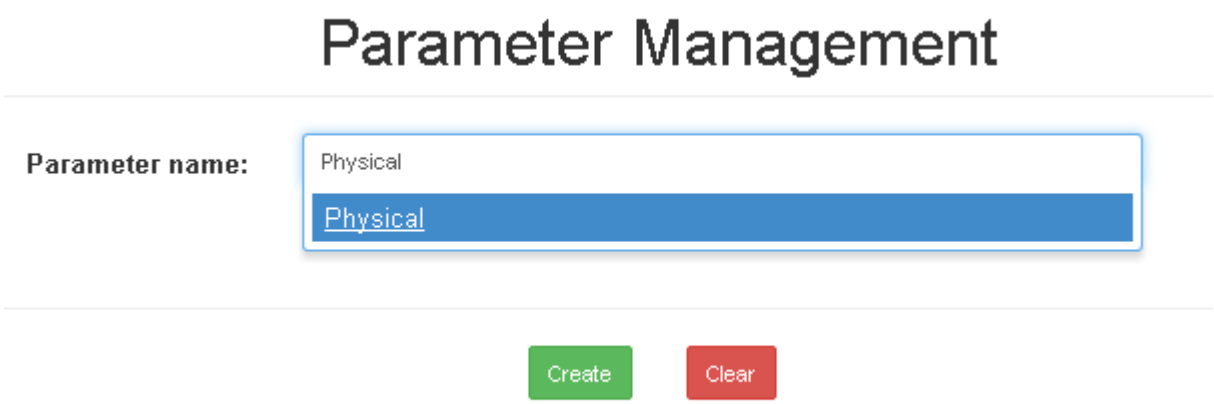
In order to carry out assessments for an animal, you must first create parameters and factors and apply them to a template.

Appendix 1 lists the recommended parameters and factors to use as described in the publication: *Wolfensohn SE, Sharpe S, Hall I, Lawrence S, Kitchen S, Dennis M. (2015) 'Refinement of welfare through development of a quantitative system for assessment of lifetime experience'. Animal Welfare, 24, pp. 139-149.*

Parameter management

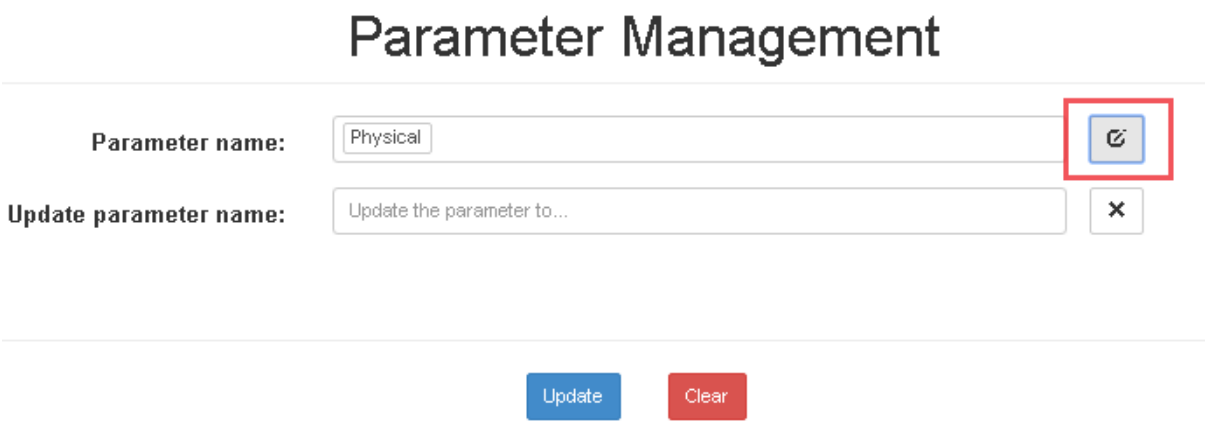
To create parameters:

1. Select 'Manage Parameters' from the menu.
2. Enter a parameter name into the input box.
3. To store this parameter in the database, press enter or select it and then press create.



Parameters can also be edited by looking them up and then renaming them.

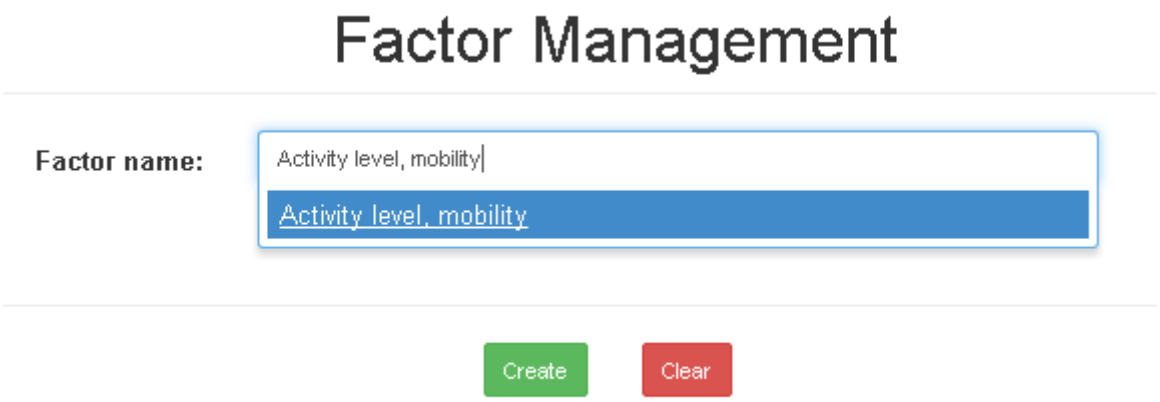
4. Press the 'Edit' button the right of the select box.
5. Start typing an existing parameter name into the select box and select it.



6. Enter the new parameter name in the ‘Update parameter name’ input box and select it or press ‘Enter’. You can cancel the update by pressing the cross button next to the input or pressing ‘Clear’.

Factor management

Factors are the granular scoring mechanism used to measure an animal's welfare. In the AWAG system, many factors are assigned to a parameter but first you must create them. They are created and edited in the same way as parameters are. You can access the factor management screen by selecting 'Manage Factors' from the main navigation menu.

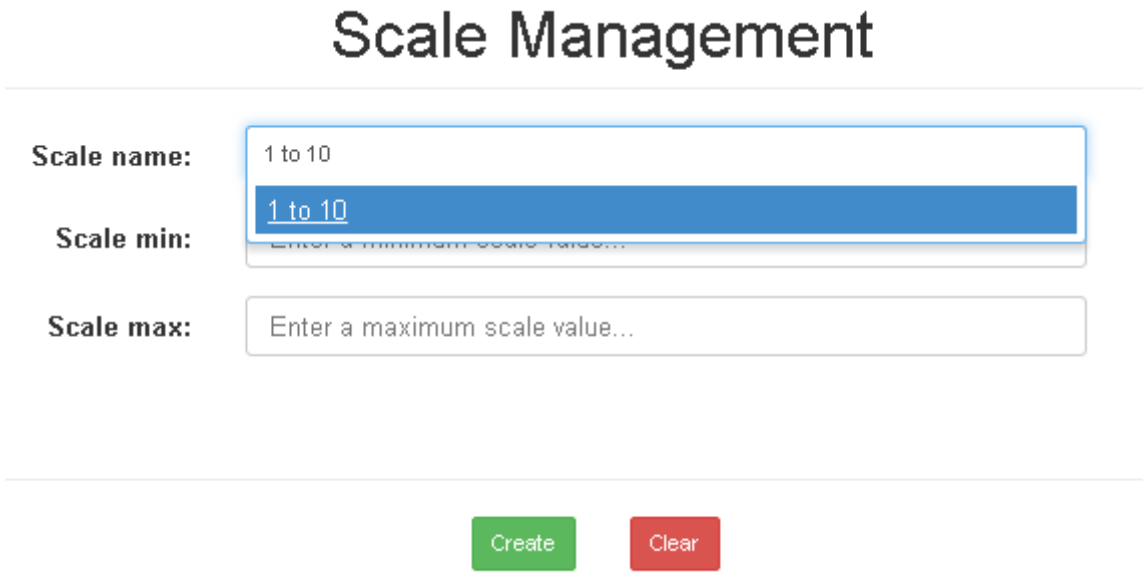


Scale management

A scale will be used as a measurement for all factors in a template; an example being a value ranging from 1 to 10.

1. Select ‘Manage Scales’ from the navigation menu.

2. Enter the name for the scale



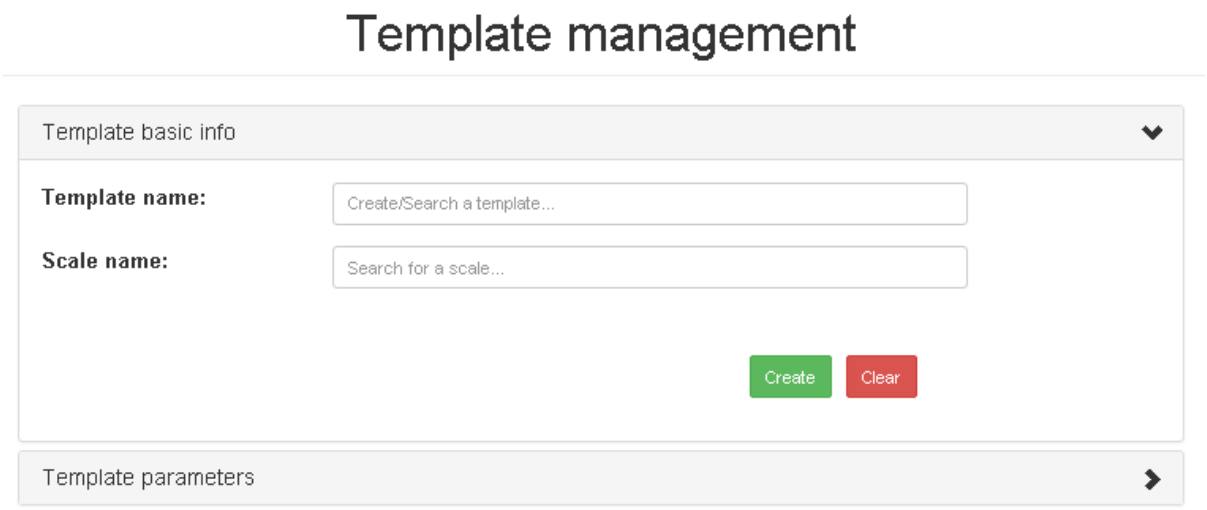
3. Enter the minimum and maximum values used to score a factor and then press ‘Create’.

4. You can edit a scale by selecting the scale name using the input box, editing the values and then pressing ‘Update’.

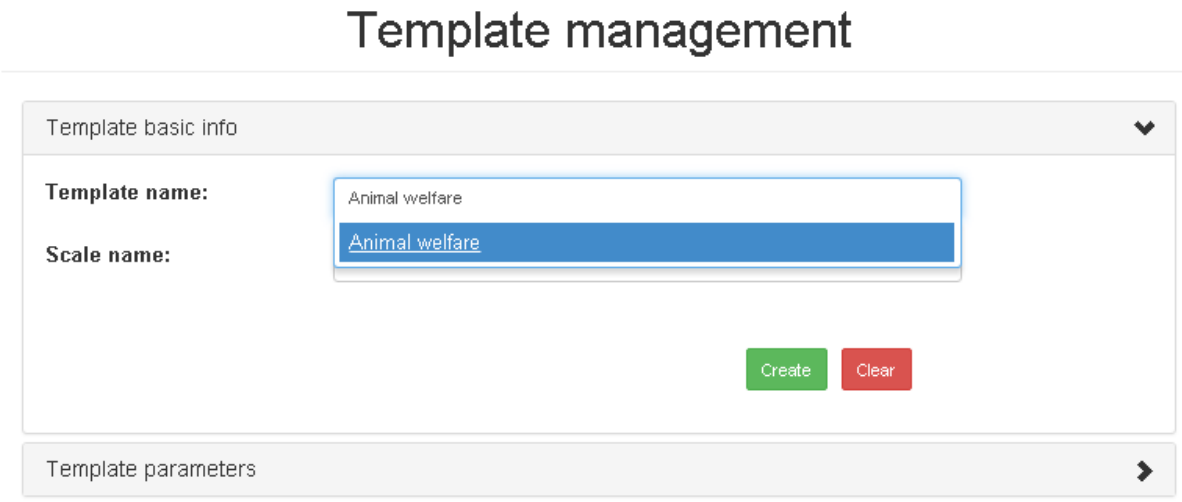
Template management

Once you have entered all of your parameters and factors in the system, you can start to create a template. The role of a template is to link parameters with factors. This will be applied against an animal so that assessments for the animal can be carried out.

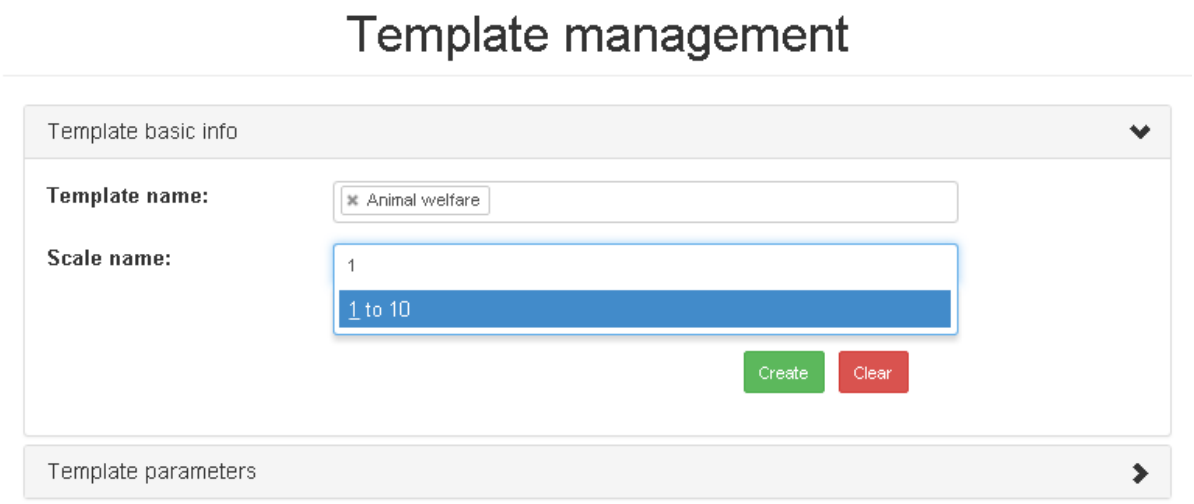
1. Select 'Manage Templates' from the navigation menu.



2. Add a template name into the 'Template name' input box and select it.

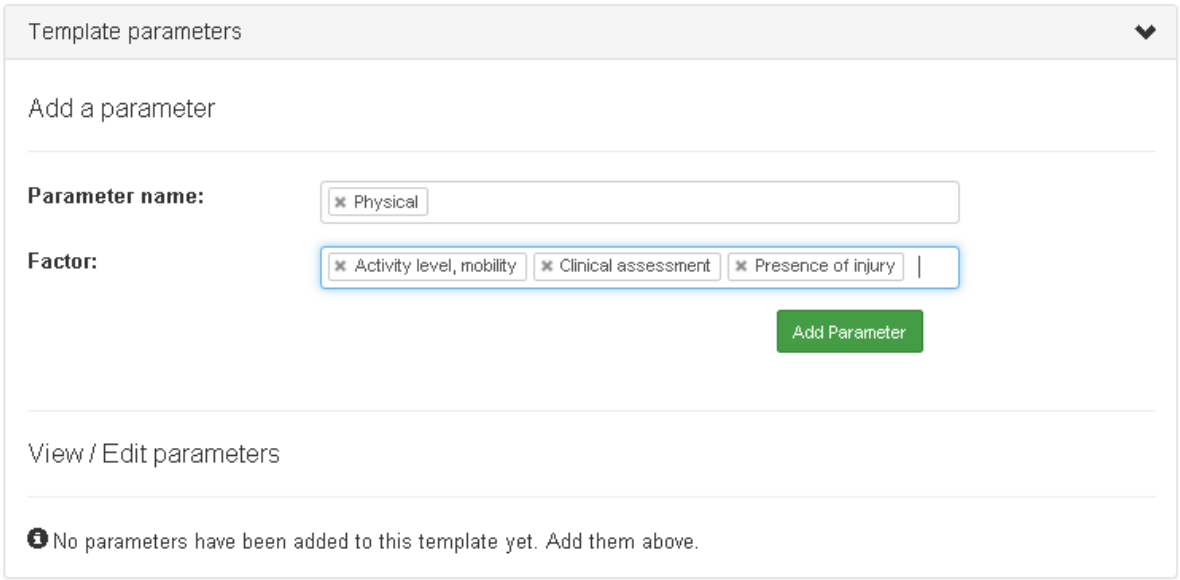


3. Enter the scale name to use for the template and then click create.



The second panel in the template management screen is used to create relationships between parameters and factors.

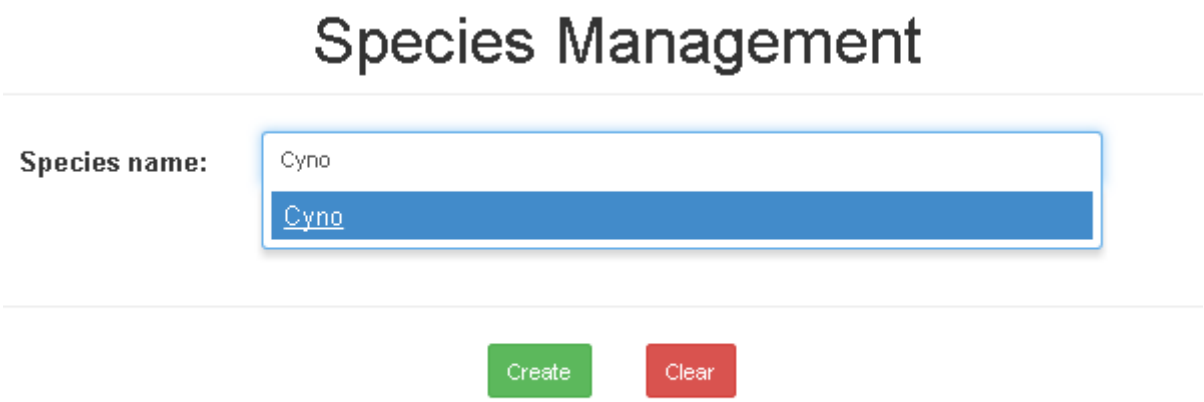
4. Enter the parameter name that you have previously stored in the system and select it.
5. Enter one or more factors that you have previously stored in the system; these will be mapped to the parameter.

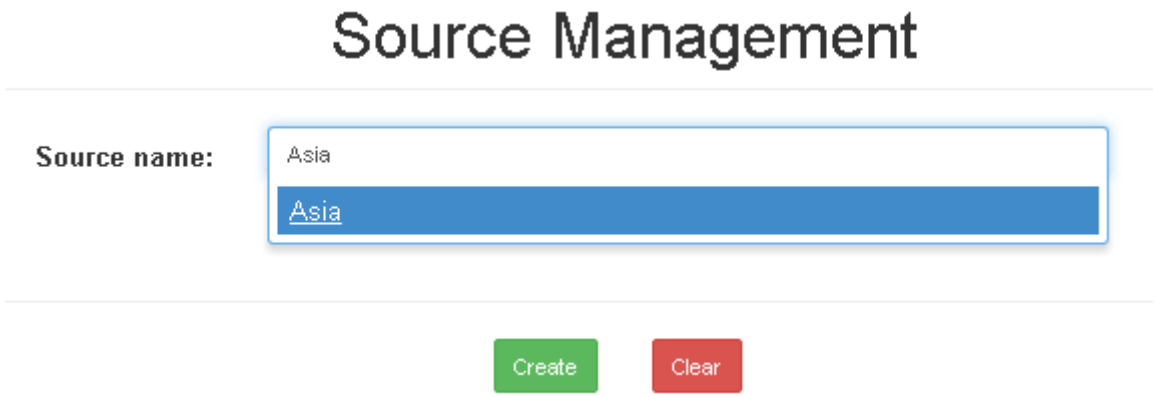


6. Press ‘Add Parameter’ to create the relationship.

Species and source management

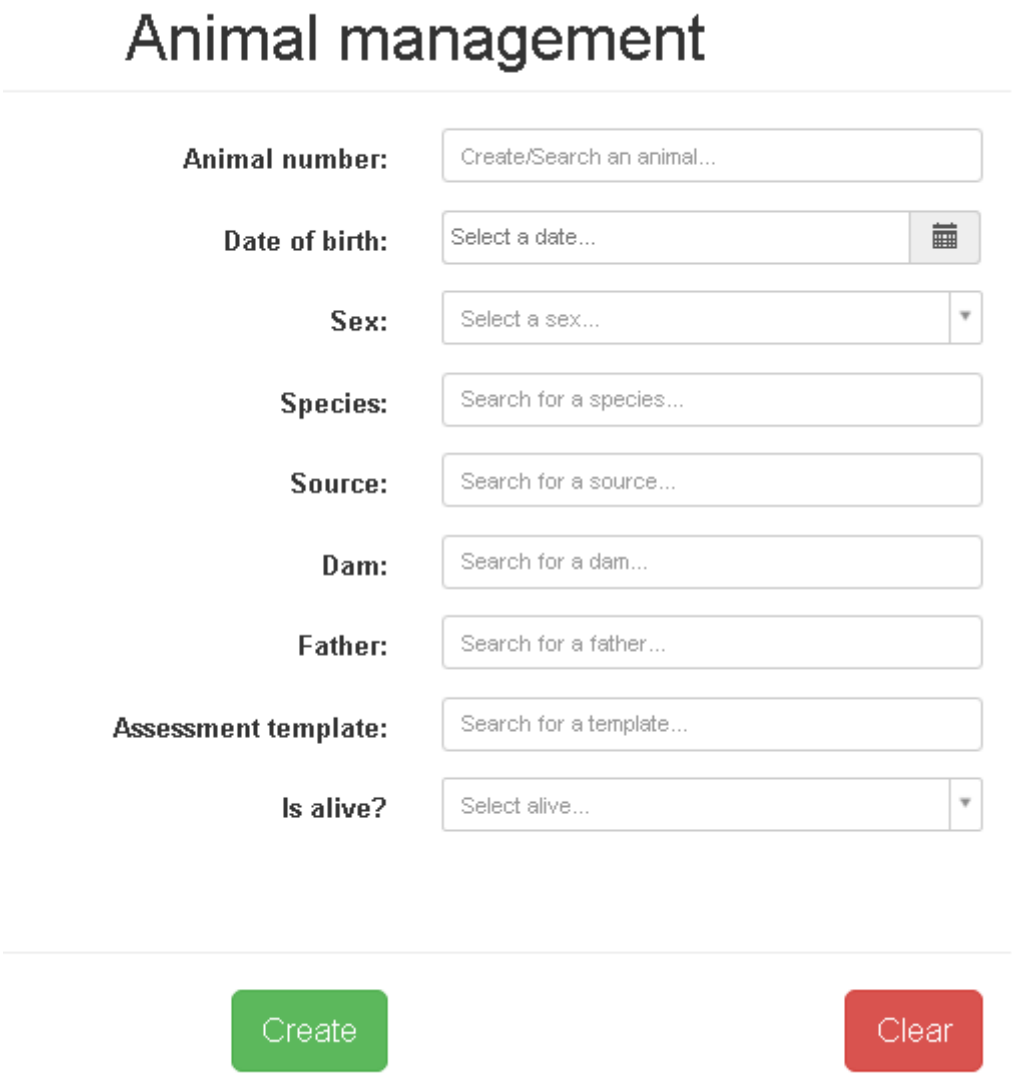
Before an animal can be stored in the system you must create a species and source to apply against it. These two screens operate the same as the parameter and factor management screens. Enter ‘Species’ and ‘Source’ names and press ‘Create’.



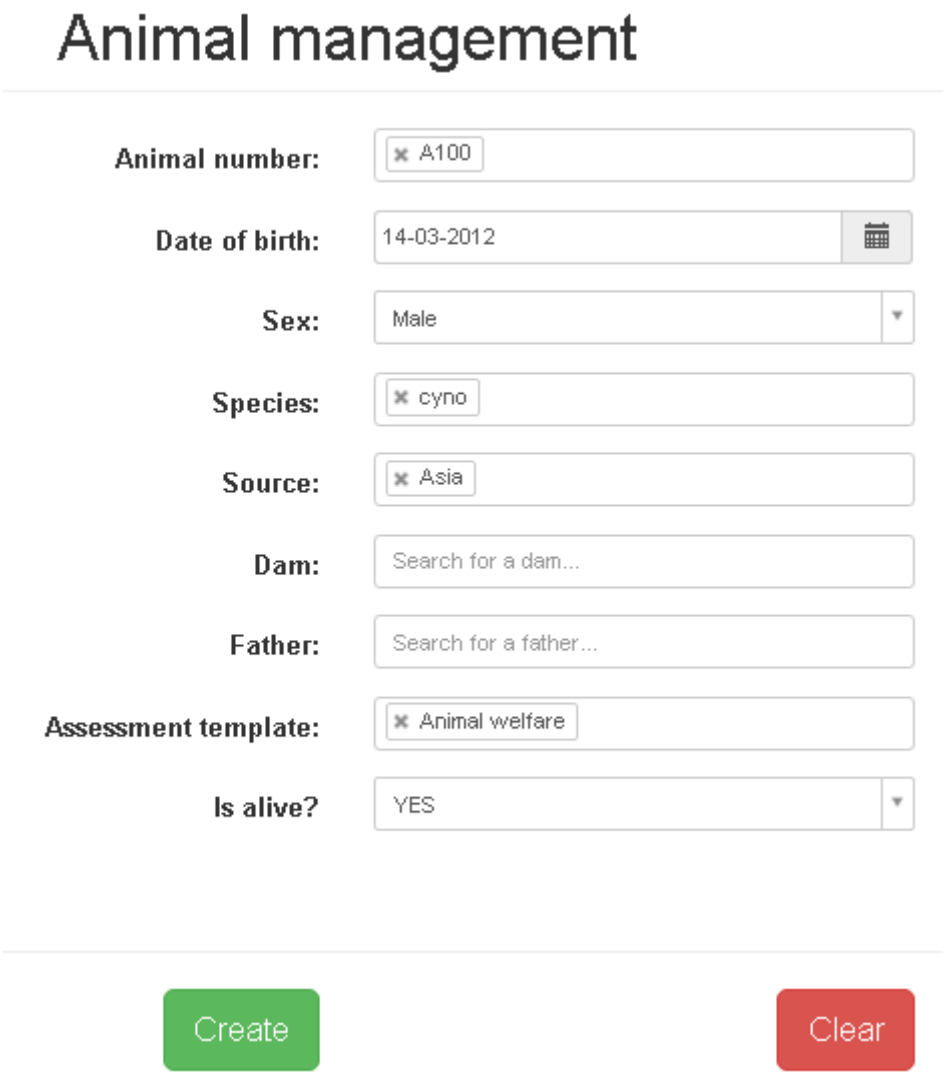


Animal management

To create and/or edit animals select ‘Manage animals’ from the navigation panel.



1. Add the name of the animal in the ‘Animal number’ input box.
2. Select the date of birth of the animal using the date selection input box.
3. Add the sex of the animal using the drop down menu.
4. Add the species of the animal created in the previous section.
5. Add the source of the animal created in the previous section.
6. Add the dam and father of the animal; these can be left blank if not known.
    a. Dam and father entries are created in the same way as for any other animal in the system. You can create a child, then its parents and after that go back and edit the child’s details to include the parents.
7. Apply a template to an animal using the ‘Assessment template’ input box.
8. Select whether the animal is alive or not from the ‘Is alive’ drop down box.
9. Press ‘Create’ to add the animal into the system.

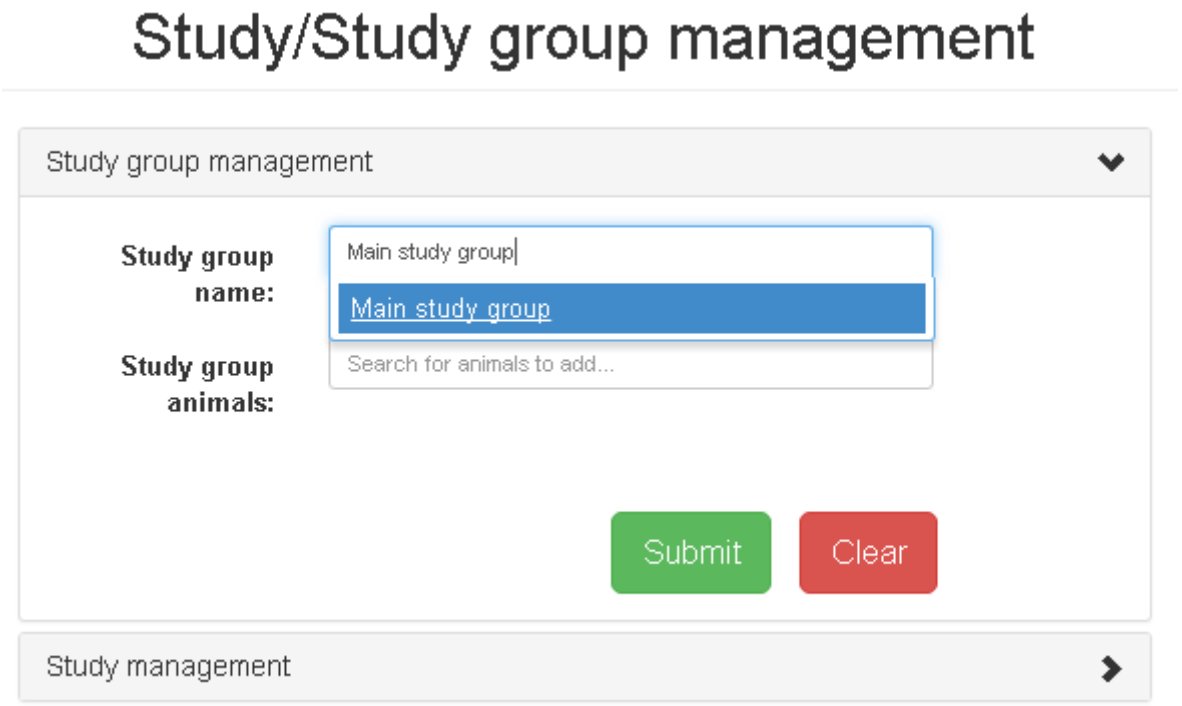

Animal management
Animal number:
A100
Date of birth:
14-03-2012
Sex:
Male
Species:
cyno
Source:
Asia
Dam:
Search for a dam...
Father:
Search for a father...
Assessment template:
Animal welfare
Is alive?
YES
Create
Clear

Study and study group management

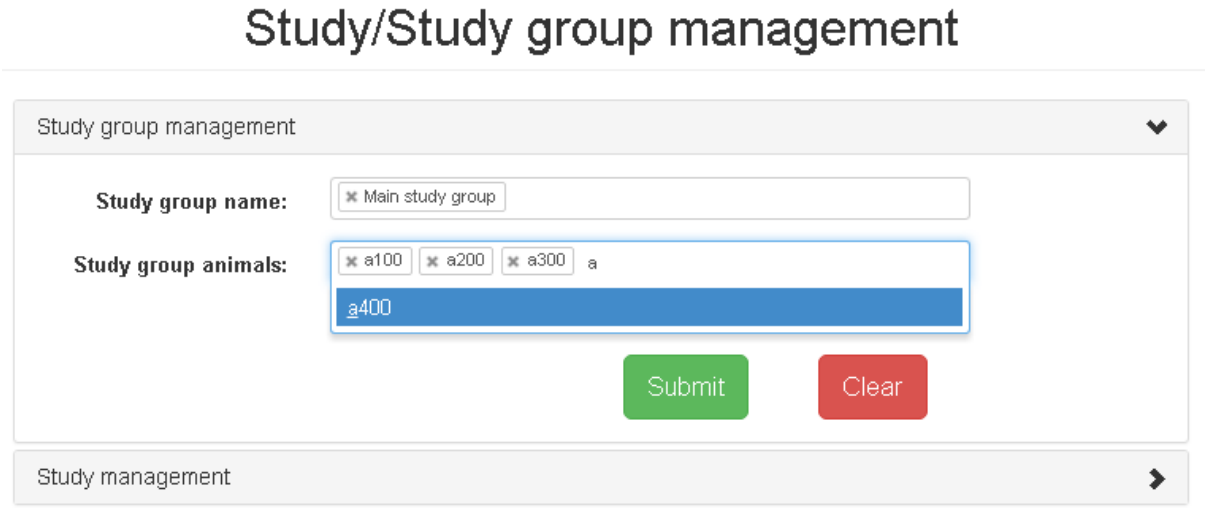
Animals can be sorted into studies and study groups. Animals are added to study groups, which are in turn added to a study. A study can contain zero or more study groups. An animal does not have to be part of a study to be assessed in the system.

The system allows for animals to be part of more than one study but not at the same time.

1. Select 'Manage Studies/Study Groups' from the navigation menu.
2. Enter a study group name into the 'Study group name' input box.



3. Enter one or more animals already stored in the system by searching/selecting animals using the 'Study group animals' input box, then press submit.

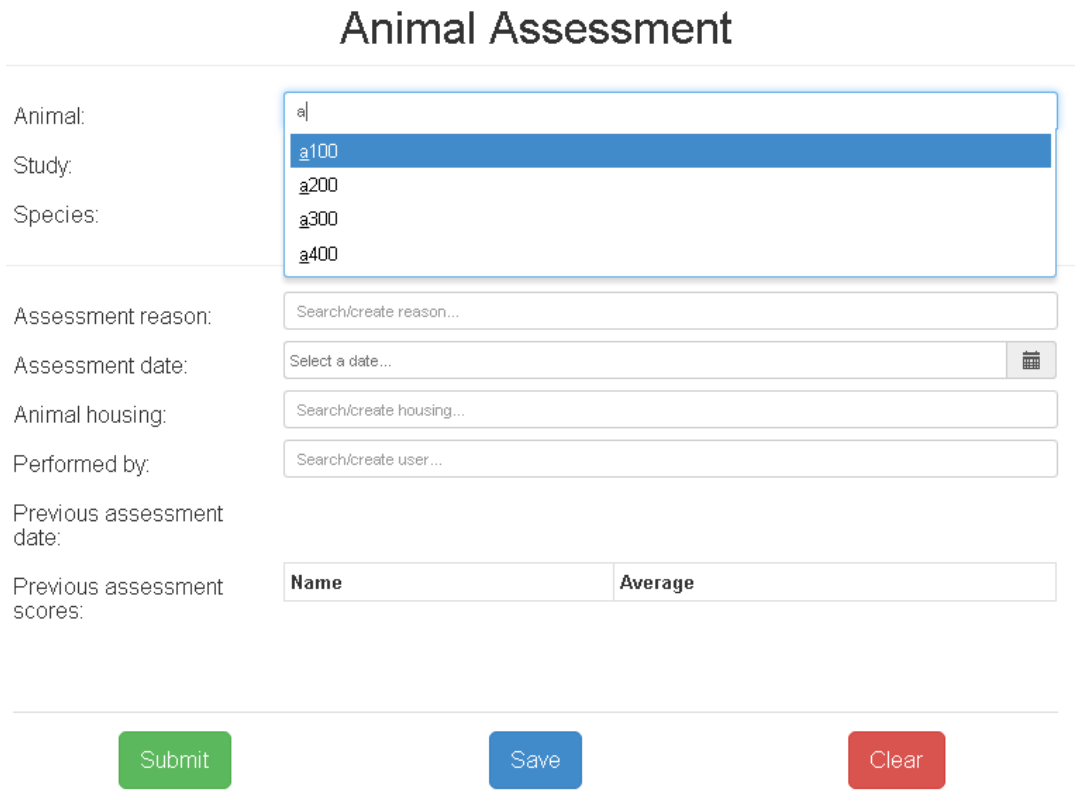


Reason and housing management

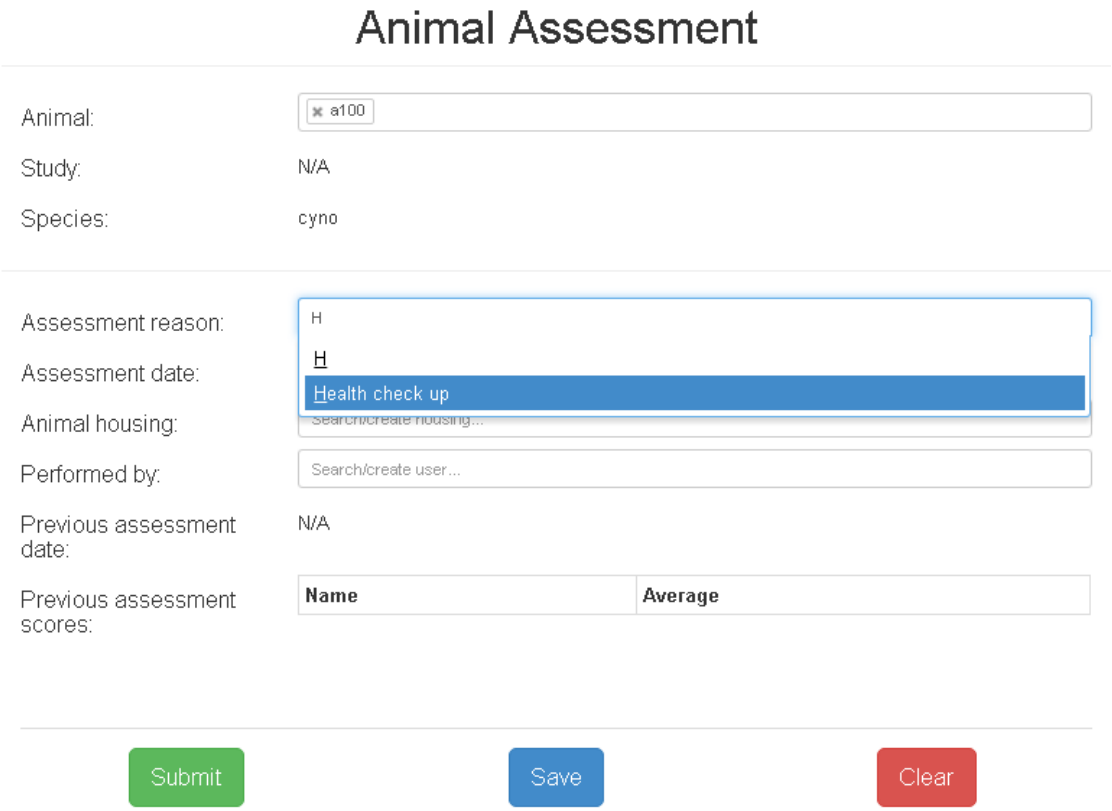
Reason and housing can be created and edited using the same method described in the parameter and factor management screens. They can also be created at the same time as the assessment is being carried out for an animal.

Assessing an animal

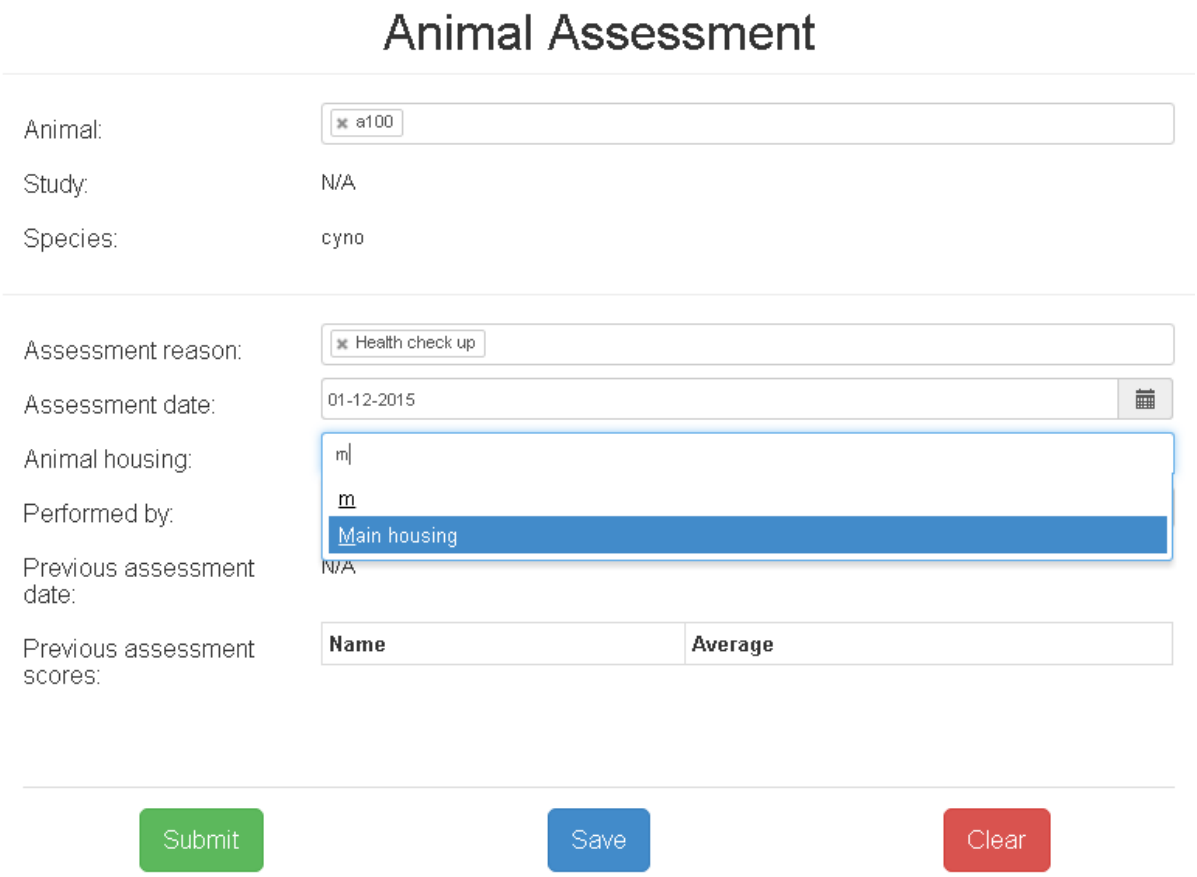
1. Select 'New Animal Assessment' from main navigation panel.



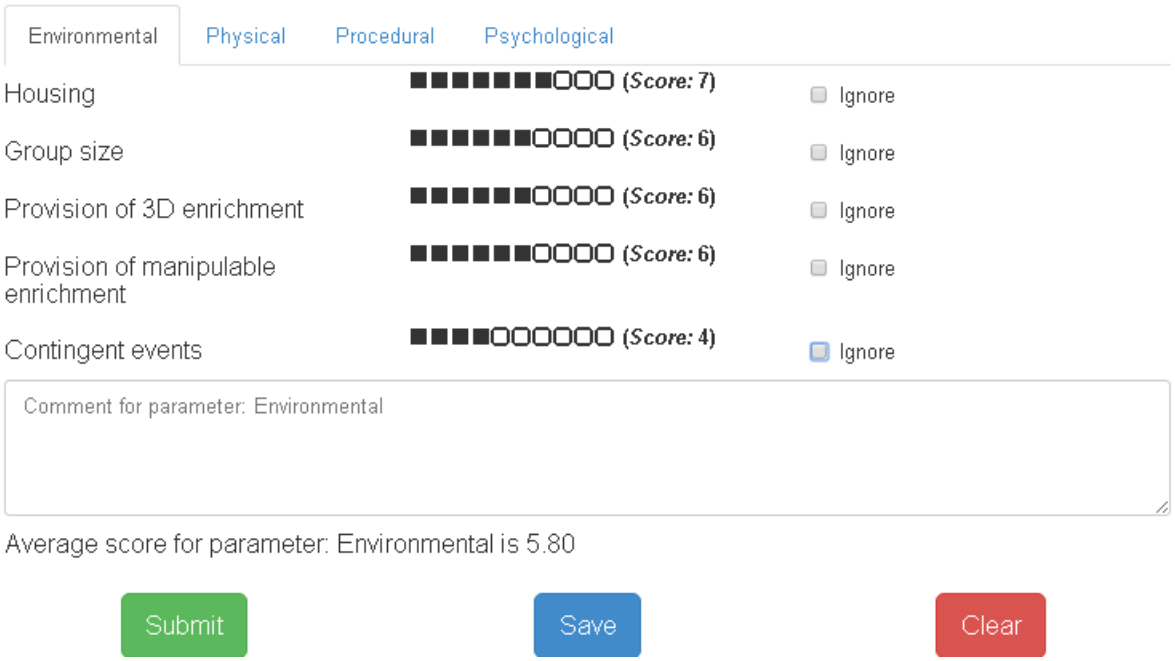
2. Create or select an existing assessment reason using the 'Assessment reason' input box.



3. Select the date from the ‘Assessment date’ date selection box.
4. Create or select existing housing using the ‘Animal housing’ input box.



5. Select scores for all of the factors for each parameter.
    a. Factors may be ignored. If they are, their value will not be included in any calculations.

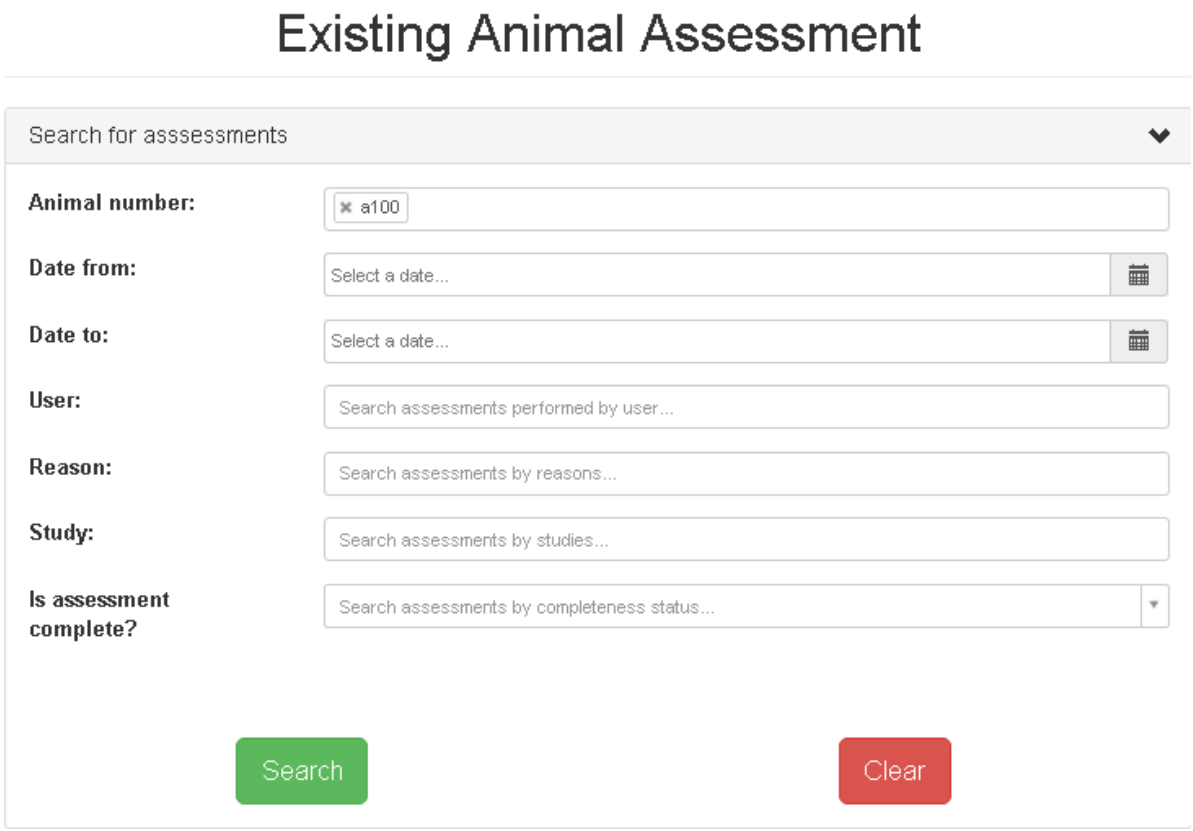


6. You can enter any comments you have for each assessment parameter into the comments input box below the assessment form.
7. Press 'Submit' to store the assessment in the system.
8. You can press 'Save' if you need to look up and complete the assessment at a later date.

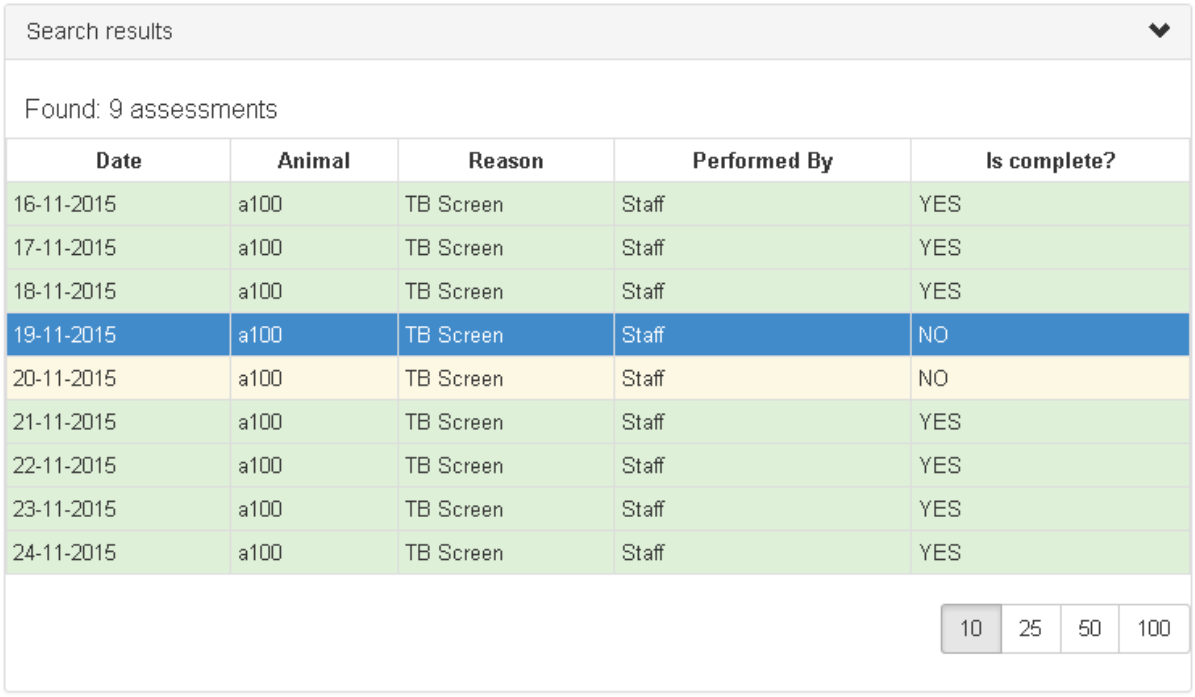
Looking up an incomplete assessment

Sometimes assessments cannot be completed and are saved in the system in an incomplete state. In order to complete an assessment you will need to look up it up.

1. Select 'Existing Animal Assessment' from the navigation panel.
2. Select the search criteria to look up assessments an press search



3. Once located, select the incomplete assessment in the table of assessments by clicking on it. Incomplete assessments are marked yellow.

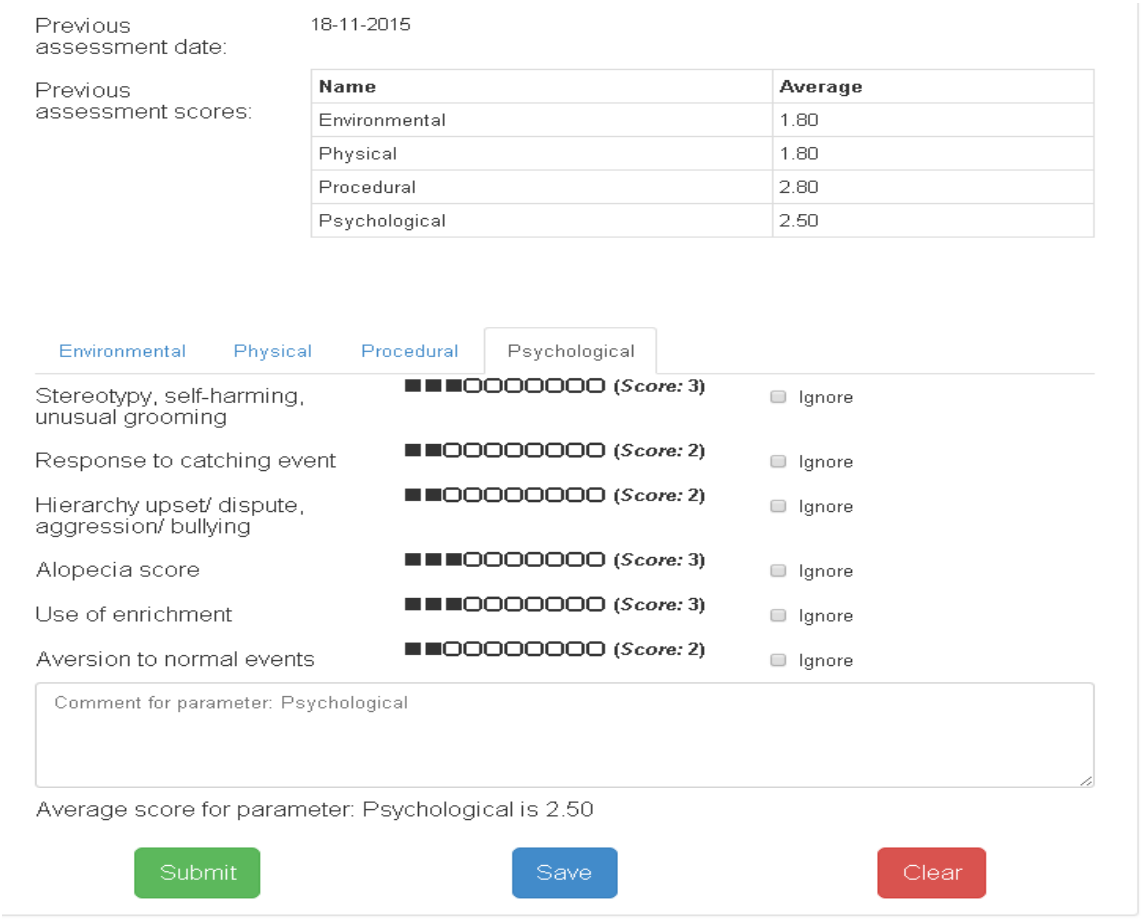

Search results

Found: 9 assessments

Date	Animal	Reason	Performed By	Is complete?
16-11-2015	a100	TB Screen	Staff	YES
17-11-2015	a100	TB Screen	Staff	YES
18-11-2015	a100	TB Screen	Staff	YES
19-11-2015	a100	TB Screen	Staff	NO
20-11-2015	a100	TB Screen	Staff	NO
21-11-2015	a100	TB Screen	Staff	YES
22-11-2015	a100	TB Screen	Staff	YES
23-11-2015	a100	TB Screen	Staff	YES
24-11-2015	a100	TB Screen	Staff	YES

10 25 50 100

4. Fill out the missing scores for each parameter factor and press 'Submit'.
5. The assessment will then be locked. Locked assessments cannot be altered.


Previous assessment date: 18-11-2015

Previous assessment scores:

Name	Average
Environmental	1.80
Physical	1.80
Procedural	2.80
Psychological	2.50

Environmental Physical Procedural Psychological

Stereotypy, self-harming, unusual grooming ■■■○○○○○○○ (Score: 3) Ignore

Response to catching event ■■○○○○○○○○ (Score: 2) Ignore

Hierarchy upset/ dispute, aggression/ bullying ■■○○○○○○○○ (Score: 2) Ignore

Alopecia score ■■■○○○○○○○ (Score: 3) Ignore

Use of enrichment ■■■○○○○○○○ (Score: 3) Ignore

Aversion to normal events ■■○○○○○○○○ (Score: 2) Ignore

Comment for parameter: Psychological

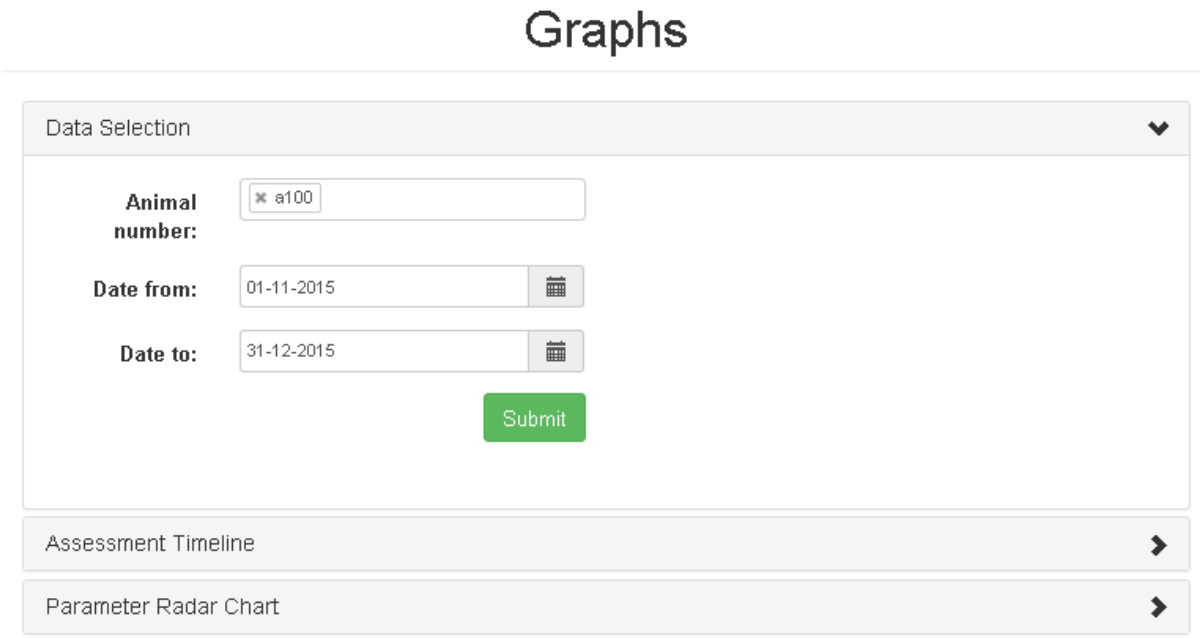
Average score for parameter: Psychological is 2.50

Submit Save Clear

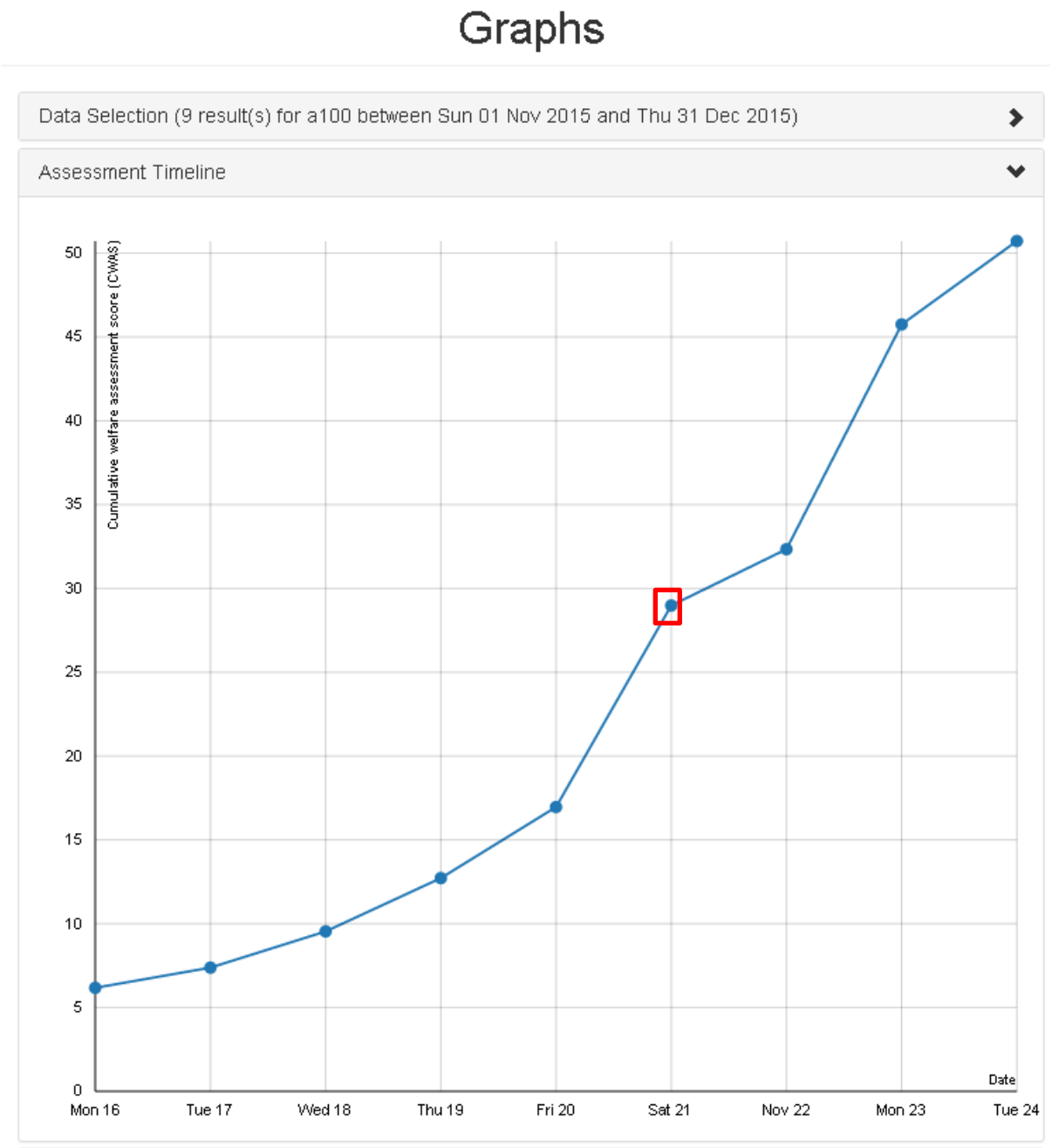
Graphs

To view the assessment data in the system you can use the 'Graphs' section of the system.

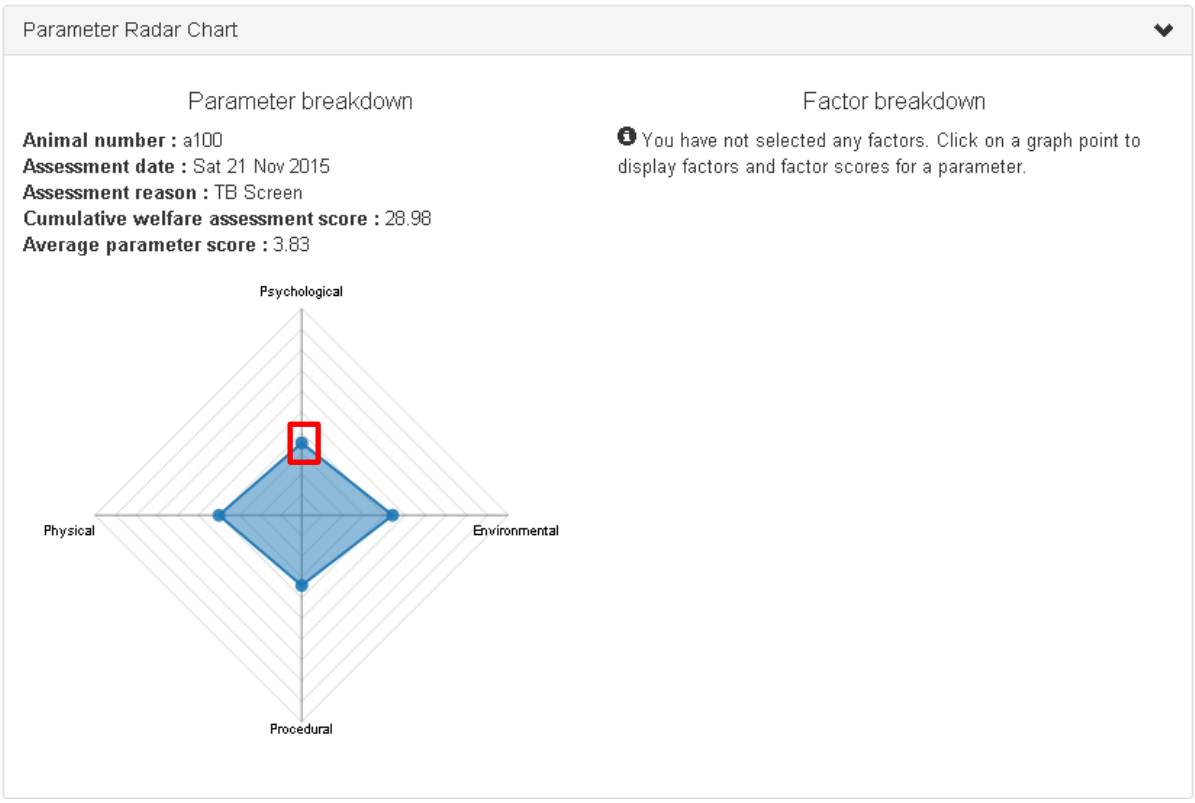
1. Select 'Graphs' from the navigation panel.
2. Select an animal and a date range and press 'Submit' to view assessment data.



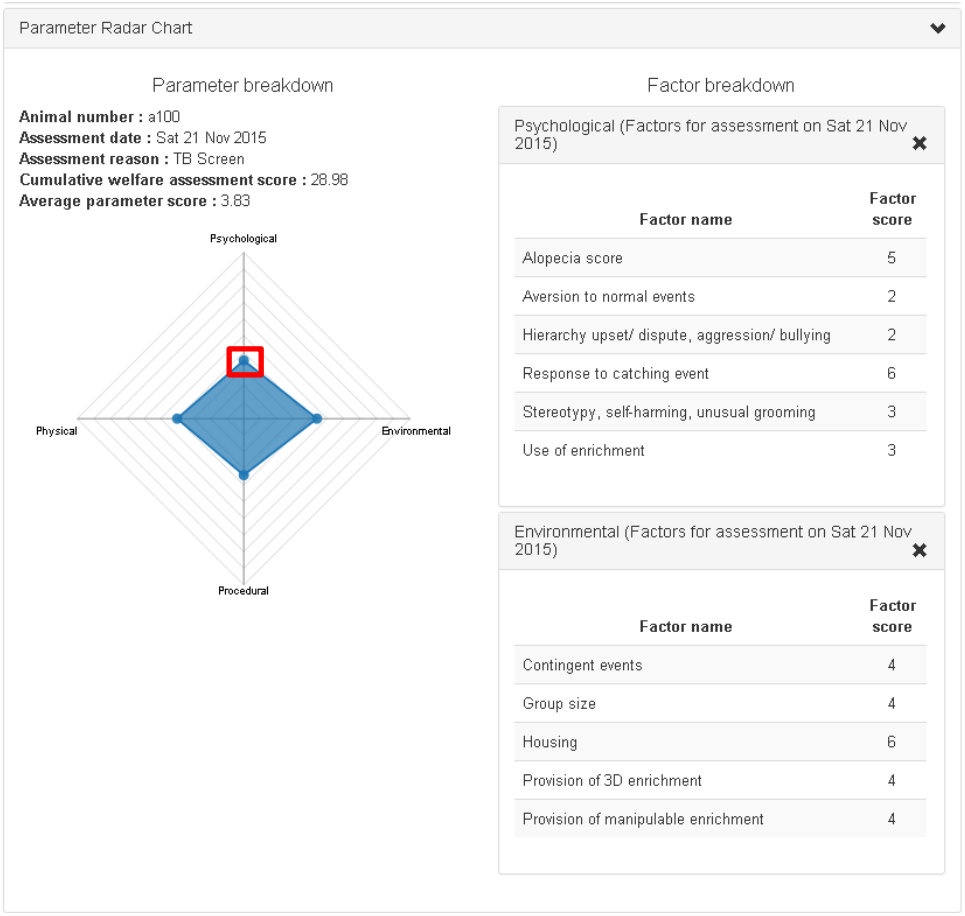
3. A graph will appear showing the cumulative welfare assessment score for each assessment stored for the animal between the two dates.



4. You can drill down to view the assessment data by clicking on any point on the graph.



5. To drill down to view the factor scores for each parameter in an assessment; select one or more of the points on the radar chart.



Appendix 1

The table below lists the recommended parameters and factors for the Assessment Template as described in the publication: *Wolfensohn SE, Sharpe S, Hall I, Lawrence S, Kitchen S, Dennis M. (2015) 'Refinement of welfare through development of a quantitative system for assessment of lifetime experience'. Animal Welfare, 24, pp. 139-149.*

Parameters	Factors
Physical	General condition (weight-loss, condition score)
	Clinical assessment
	Activity level, mobility
	Presence of injury
	Not eating/ drinking
Behavioural/psychological	Stereotypy, self-harming, unusual grooming
	Response to catching event
	Hierarchy upset/ dispute, aggression/ bullying
	Alopecia score
	Use of enrichment
	Aversion to 'normal' events
Environmental	Housing
	Group size
	Provision of 3D enrichment
	Provision of manipulable enrichment
	Contingent events
Experimental/clinical event	Restraint
	Sedation
	Planned Licensed procedure
	Veterinary/ Husbandry procedure
	Change in daily routine