

Planning and new design of a facility for animal experiments incorporating the use of a computer-assisted management system

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Background

In conjunction with the relocation of the research and development department's experimental laboratory to the new facility, the accommodations for animals were also moved to the new site.

The former facility grew and took its shape with time as demands required subject to the space and the processes associated with the use of the available space. The facility's internal documentation and communication as well its communication and documentation with externally involved individuals, authorities and suppliers were solely based on paper-based procedures and unsuitable for today's requirements.

Goals

Relocation of the experimental laboratory was therefore used as an opportunity to evaluate and improve the accommodations for animals with regards to current standards for animal welfare, work flow economy and work ergonomics.

The new facility as well as the important associated processes was arranged in a uniform system of workflows, processes and checks according to the following requirements:

- Adherence to animal welfare requirements and given procedures for experiments and personnel
- Increased efficiency through the real standardization of regulated workflows
- Consideration of the requirements for the certification as per AAALAC, GxP validation and the amendment to the European animal protection directive

The "AniMa" project

To attain these goals, several key actions were decided on and implemented for the project – internally named "AniMa":

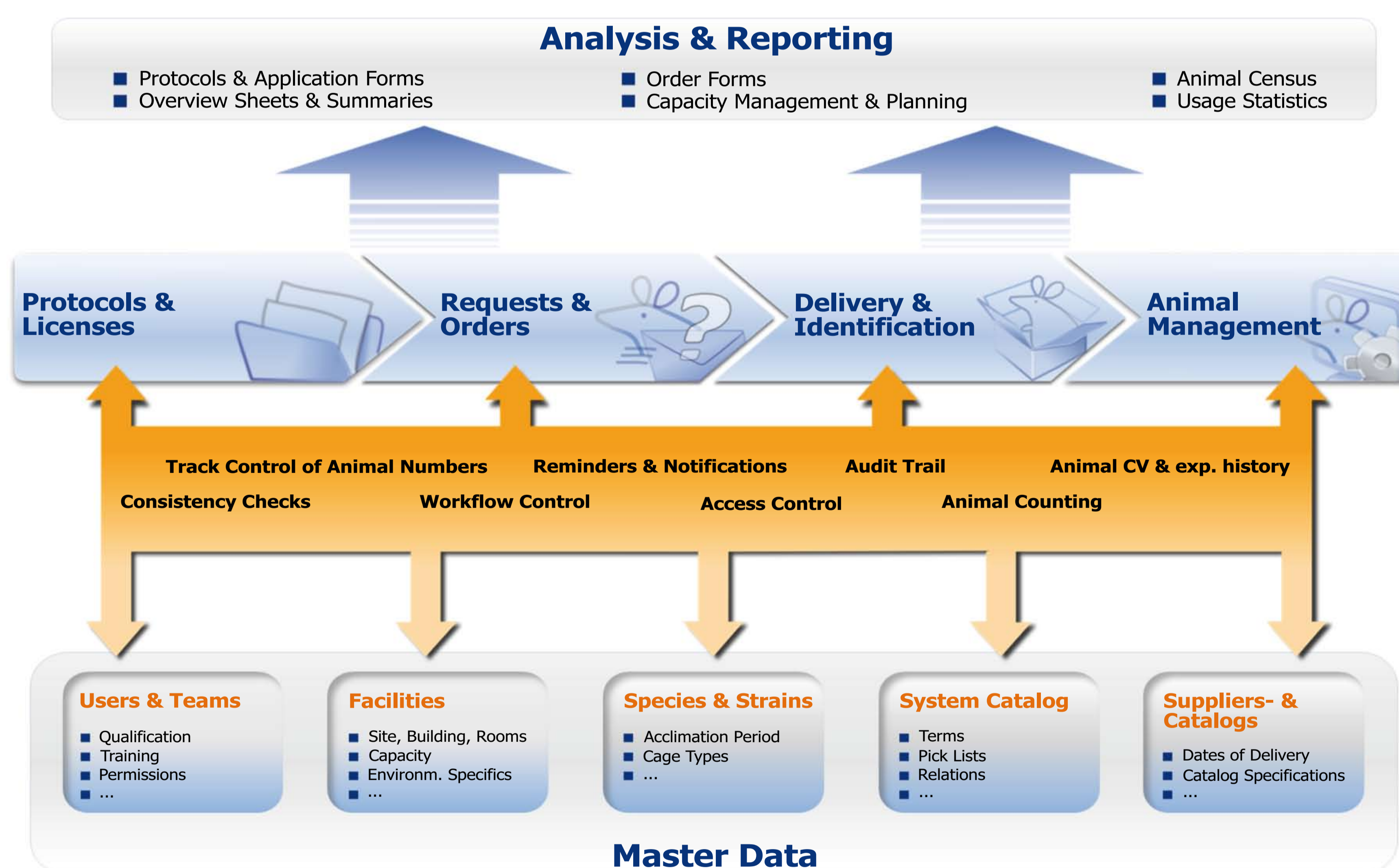
- Formation of a project team comprised of key users from every department, including animal management and care, research and development, administration and building planning
- Early integration of the approval and supervising authorities
- Use of a software tool for the documentation and implementation of the processes

Following suitable market analysis, a-tune software AG's tick@lab product was selected, configured for the specific requirements and validated as per GxP guidelines and regulations.

tick@lab alias AniMa – Start page with main menu



tick@lab in the AniMa project – An integrated animal facility management system



Results

tick@lab, alias "AniMa", makes the following functions available:

- Generation and management of animal use protocols
- Generation and management of special permits as per German animal welfare law, as well as qualification and authorization of personnel
- Central availability of supplier catalogues, SOPs and selection lists
- Room management and capacity management
- Order process including all steps from order placement to delivery

- Animal management and documentation
- Reports and analyses, including statistical reporting as stipulated by the law requiring the reporting and recording of the animals used for experiments as well as cost reports

Conclusion

With the linking of the various workflows and the documentation in a system, all of the project objectives as regards function as well as the higher priority goals of increased efficiency, cost reduction, compliance and avoidance of risks were achieved.