

Meet a Company: Tapvei

One will always remember the first visit to Tapvei Oy. Tapvei is worth visiting, since the location of the company is certainly extraordinary. The factory or nowadays more often called a product development laboratory is located in eastern Finland near the border of Savo and Karelia. The people are curious, friendly and have their wide Savo accent, but the surroundings' features are more typical to the East-Karelian nature: forests, hills and long rivers rich with rapids. In this beautiful landscape you can also practice – as some of the employees at Tapvei do – very special water activities as log floaters sport.

No wonder that Tapvei's famous aspen products, developed in co-operation with the customers, are produced in these surroundings. The main goal of the company is to produce items, which guarantee, support and increase the welfare of the laboratory animals. The main product is The Tapvei Bedding. As a result of the teamwork between the customers and the company it was possible to create some models for enrichments for different laboratory animal species for the coming years. These products undergo a constant development according to the needs expressed by our clients.

One example of enrichment is one Tapvei product the aspen "Tube" which became the "Arcade" after taking away the bottom. New products are created and constantly developed; new models with different looks are introduced to the market. In order to facilitate for the customers to find the best solution for their research goals the company's first target for year 2001 is to publish a booklet about the products: beddings and enrichments. This will include the necessary information and practical advice concerning how to use the products, which species are these designed for, how long do they last, what kind of treatment do they resist etc.

The personnel consists of the Tirkkonen family, the managing director is Veijo, who can make anything from aspen wood, Erja takes care of the management of finances, while their daughter Heli studies in England. In addition to the family there are Anne Korhonen and I.

Tapvei Oy is up-to-date, all the time searching and scanning for information and new impulses. Above this aim Tapvei Oy also acts as a contact between different distant entities, bringing them together. One concrete example for you: when one travels a lot (which is typical for a salesman), one meets a lot of people. Thus when we travel, we do have another role also, a role of a messenger, connecting people. We brought together two departments, which were very similar, one in Norway and the other in Austria. These had certainly a great deal in common. Since we do co-operation with many universities and research centres, we do have a wide network of experts. When you have a problem in the field of beddings and enrichments, you can ask us. We do our best to find the solution, since we do also act as consultants.

To be able to visit our homepages: <https://www.tapvei.com/extranet> one needs a password. Thus the site is protected against outsiders. The passwords are available now.

You can contact the company on telephone +358 (0) 17-675 331, fax: +358 (0) 17 675 321, email: Tapvei@co.inet.fi or by mail to Tapvei Oy, Vaikkojoentie 33, 73 600 Kortteinen, Finland. Please share your own experiences related to the enrichments with us, for we still need data for the booklet, coming soon!

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