

Use of animals in research

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The UK is a world leader in pioneering medical research that has saved and improved the lives of millions, both human and animal. Current medicines and surgical techniques would not have been discovered without the work of basic science research programmes, involving research using animals.

The Society for Endocrinology considers that the benefits of utilising animals in research are justified for scientific purposes, when alternatives cannot be used. The Society recognises the ethical considerations involved, and that animal research must only be undertaken with the highest consideration of animal health and welfare and in accordance with stringent regulations.

To this end, the Society recognises the importance of the UK Home Office 1986 Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, related to EU Directive 2010/63/EU, and endeavours that all Society published material and data presented is in compliance with the Act. The approval process for the granting of licences to carry out research using animals under the 1986 Act requires that the possible benefits of the research are sufficient to justify their use.

Additionally, researchers must give full consideration to the 3Rs, which require that every effort is made to **refine** procedures to keep animal suffering to a minimum, to **reduce** the number of animals used, and to **replace** the use of animals with non-animal alternatives wherever possible. See the NC3Rs website for further information and guidance (www.nc3rs.org.uk).

All grant holders using animals must implement the principles in the cross-funder guidance *Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research* (www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility).

Research funded outside of the UK must be carried out in accordance with the principles of UK legislation as well as being compliant with all local legislation and ethical review processes. Resulting publications must include a statement of compliance with these requirements.

Grant holders should make use of the ARRIVE guidelines (www.nc3rs.org.uk/ARRIVE) when designing their experiments, and ensure that they report animal-based studies in accordance with the ARRIVE guidelines as far as possible, taking into account the specific editorial policies of the journal concerned.

The Society for Endocrinology is a member of Understanding Animal Research (<http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/>) and the Association of Medical Research Charities (<https://www.amrc.org.uk>) and we support the AMRC statement on the use of animals in research <https://www.amrc.org.uk/position-statement-on-the-use-of-animals-in-research>