



PCD Research

PCDresearch.org

PCD Research – Animal Research Policy

1. Position Statement

PCD Research recognises that in order to further research in PCD, we must invest in a variety of research including cell and tissue experiments, developing computer models and, when absolutely necessary, animal research. All approaches, including research using animals, play a vital role in the medical research process.

PCD Research:

- Supports replacements, refinement and reduction (3Rs) of animals in research through peer review.
- Promotes the 3Rs in our funding policy
- Publicly supports the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) statement on the use of animals in research.
- Provides the AMRC with details on the use of animals in the research we fund during our annual data collection.

We are committed to undertaking high quality animal research that is well-designed, uses rigorous and expert peer review, is well-reported, and ethically justified.

High standards of animal welfare – including housing conditions, well-trained animal technologists – are vital to PCD Research. These minimise discomfort for animals and enable researchers to get reliable results. PCD Research works with AMRC to ensure the research we fund can exceed the regulatory requirements to improve animal welfare and science.

2. The 3Rs of Animal Research

The welfare of animals used in research is very important. PCD Research supports researchers who would prefer not to use animals at all so that they work hard to find alternatives and, where there are currently none, they use the smallest number of animals they can and ensure these are looked after well and do not feel any preventable discomfort.

These principles are called the **3Rs**:

- **Replace** the use of animals with alternative techniques, or avoid the use of animals altogether.
- **Refine** the way experiments are carried out, to make sure animals suffer as little as possible. This includes better housing and improvements to procedures which minimise pain and suffering and/or improve animal welfare.
- **Reduce** the number of animals used to a minimum by seeking ways to find out information from fewer animals or more information from the same number of animals.

PCD Research supports the use of the 3Rs in any research that we fund. Researchers will have to demonstrate as part of the peer review process that they have carefully considered the use of animals, and demonstrate why their use is unavoidable in line with guidance by the AMRC.

3. Applications For Research Involving Animals

As part of the PCD Research grant application process, it is a mandatory requirement for all applications to include questions pertaining to the use of animals, to ensure they meet the principles of the 3Rs. This is assessed via review of the PCD Research Clinical Trials and Research Involving Animals Form as part of the peer review process by the SAB.

Any grant application that involves non-human primates, cats, dogs or equines will be subject to further detailed questions. In addition, such a grant application will be subject to external review by the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs).

4. Grantholder Responsibilities

All grant holders using animals must implement the principles in the cross-funder guidance [Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research](#) as set out by the NC3Rs (<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility>).

Grant holders using non-human primates must comply with the NC3Rs guidelines [Primate Accommodation, Care and Use](#) (<https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources/non-human-primate-accommodation-care-and-use-guidelines>)

Grant holders should make use of the [PREPARE guidelines](#) (<https://norecopa.no/PREPARE>) to help plan experiments. PREPARE covers the three broad areas which determine the quality of the preparation for animal studies: Formulation of the study; Dialogue between scientists and the animal facility; and Methods.

Grant holders should make use of the [ARRIVE guidelines](https://arriveguidelines.org) (<https://arriveguidelines.org>) and the report '[Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources/responsibility-use-animals-bioscience-research)' (<https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources/responsibility-use-animals-bioscience-research>) for reporting research involving animals, to maximise the quality and reliability of published research, and enable others to better scrutinise, evaluate and reproduce it.

5. Research Outside the United Kingdom

Research funded outside of the UK must be carried out in the spirit of UK legislation as well as being compliant with all local legislation and ethical review processes.

6. Peer Review Process for Research Involving Animals

As part of the PCD Research grant application process, it is a mandatory requirement for all applications to include questions pertaining to the use of animals, to ensure they meet the principles of the 3Rs. This is assessed via review of the PCD Research Clinical Trials and Research Involving Animals Form as part of the peer review process by the SAB.

A small proportion of the research grants, fellowships or studentships funded by PCD Research may involve the use of non-human primates, cats, dogs or equines. For research under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, amended 2012 (ASPA), these types of animal can only be used if no other animals are suitable.

Any grant application that involves non-human primates, cats, dogs or equines will be subject to further detailed questions. In addition, such a grant application will be subject to external review by the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs).

All research involving non-human primates should comply with the NC3Rs Guidelines [Primate Accommodation, Care and Use](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/primatesguidelines) (www.nc3rs.org.uk/primatesguidelines). Research involving any vertebrate species should comply with cross-funder guidance [Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility) (<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility>).

Questions on compliance with these guidelines may be asked of the applicant, ethics committee, or named persons on certificates issued under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA), as part of the peer review process for research proposals. The NC3Rs may be asked by the funding bodies to give advice on compliance.