

Use of Animals in Scientific Research Policy

Introduction

Breast Cancer Now is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC). We support the principle of using animals in research when it is necessary to advance understanding of health and disease and to develop new treatments. This research only takes place where there is no alternative available. This is a requirement by law. We have signed up to the [Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK](#) and support this [statement](#) as set out on the AMRC website.

What we expect from our researchers

If you receive funding from Breast Cancer Now, please remember the following:

- Your grant must not be used for any research on animals which has not been approved and set out in the grant application.
- Where possible you should adopt procedures and techniques which avoid the use of animals. Where this is not possible you should use the minimum number of animals considered necessary to achieving a valid result in any experiment. You should adhere to the principles of the 3Rs (<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk>) by using the minimum number of animals possible and causing the least suffering. Adhering to these principles may involve the use of animals of a higher quality or species.
- You must comply with all applicable laws, regulations and guidelines, including but not limited to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, relating to the use and handling of live animals in relation to the Project.
- You must not commence any activities under the Project that require the use of animals until all the necessary licenses and certificates have been obtained.

What our researchers can expect from us

- When communicating about your work, such as on our website or in press releases, we may mention that the research involves animal work, unless we are specifically requested not to.
- We will share data on how much animal research we fund with the AMRC. The AMRC will also monitor our compliance with the Concordat.
- Communicating about work which involves the use of animals can be sensitive, and there are some that may seek to misuse information about your research. We can help you talk about your work in the most effective way. If you are unsure of how to best communicate your animal research to the public, please get in contact with the Research Communications team for advice and support