

The 3Hs Initiative: Handling, Housing and Habituation

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Good quality research data is underpinned by good animal welfare, which can be achieved through methods of refinement. We have developed a framework that considers the lifetime experience of the laboratory animal and seeks to improve their welfare by targeting the 3Hs: Housing, Handling and Habituation. To facilitate uptake of refinements in these areas, it is important that they are supported by objective and quantitative evidence. In this talk, I will highlight the importance of focusing on the lab animal's lifetime experience and consider factors that contribute to cumulative suffering. I will introduce our tools for assessing affective state in rodents, and how they have supported the development of new and refined protocols for housing, handling and habituation.