

Joint European funding principles for research involving animals

Research involving animals helps to enhance our understanding of human, animal and environmental health and biology. It raises many complex issues for example, ethics, animal welfare, transparency, reproducibility and translation. To maintain public confidence in research involving animals, and to build on standards of animal welfare we, as a funding community, abide by three key principles.

1. As funders we recognise our role in promoting high quality science, and that good animal welfare, and the 3Rs of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement, are integral to this. We aim to ensure we only fund research using animals that implements the 3Rs, is justifiable, and is relevant to clinical practice, to the health or welfare of animals, or to enhancing our knowledge of fundamental science.
2. Working collaboratively as a community, across Europe, can help us meet our goals. We will share good practice in grant making, and pool resources to improve animal welfare, and scientific outputs, in funded research.
3. We understand the importance of openness and transparency about research involving animals. Transparency is central to relevant, reproducible and replicable science. We will endeavour to be open - engaging about our funding, policies and processes. We will also strive to ensure the research we fund, as far as possible, is open and accessible in terms of data sharing and publication.



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