

Leukaemia UK's Policy: Use of animals in research

The majority of the research projects that Leukaemia UK funds do not involve the use of animals. Leukaemia UK will fund proposals that include research with animals only where there is no alternative and which fully comply with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and support the guiding principles of the 3Rs (as explained below). The facts about animal research are as follows:-

- Animal research has played a vital part in many medical discoveries. Some of the biggest breakthroughs in our understanding of blood cancers and the development of new treatments would not have been possible without the use of animals.
- Most biomedical research is carried out using non-animal methods but sometimes these methods simply cannot replace the use of animals. Leukaemia UK supports the view, together with the majority of academics and every major UK charity that conducts medical research, that using animals in research is sometimes necessary to develop new treatments for human diseases.
- All animal research carried out in the UK must be approved and licensed by the Home Office, and is governed by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. In addition there are guiding principles that underpin the humane use of animals in scientific research, which are called the 3Rs (replace, refine and reduce). Any proposed research using animals is therefore required to consider:

1. 'Replace' animals with alternatives wherever possible.
2. 'Refine' experimental techniques, to ensure best practices for animal welfare.
3. 'Reduce' the number of animals used to a minimum, to obtain information from fewer animals or more information from the same number of animals.

Leukaemia UK is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC). All AMRC members support the AMRC position statement on the use of animals in research.

<https://www.amrc.org.uk/position-statement-on-the-use-of-animals-in-research>