

## Leukaemia UK's Policy on the Use of Animals in Research

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, together with the majority of academics and every major UK charity that conducts medical research, supports the view 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** 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.

Leukaemia UK funds proposals that include research with animals only where there is no alternative, and where the research fully complies with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and supports the guiding principles of the 3Rs.

Leukaemia UK is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC). All AMRC member charities support the AMRC position statement on the use of animals in research, which can be found at: <https://www.amrc.org.uk/position-statement-on-the-use-of-animals-in-research>

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