

# FOCUS ON SEVERE SUFFERING

## WHAT IS 'SEVERE' SUFFERING?

'Severe' suffering is the highest level of pain or distress it may be permitted to cause animals when used in scientific research and testing

EU around **1 million animals/year** (approx 10%)

World estimated **10 million animals/year** (approx 10%)

UK approx **87,000 procedures/year** (approx 3%)

## WHY MIGHT SEVERE SUFFERING OCCUR?

1. Animals are used to study diseases or conditions which cause severe suffering in humans.

2. A series or combination of less severe events combine to lead to an increase in overall suffering.

3. An animal dies unexpectedly, or where the death of an animal is used as an 'endpoint' of a study.



## WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

HELPING LAB ANIMALS

LIAISING with Scientists, vets and animal carers

### GUIDANCE AND OUTREACH

1 website

3 international conferences  
Over 370 delegates from 24 countries

+20 presentations in 14 countries including at research institutions and scientific conferences

### TARGETING SPECIFIC 'MODELS' AND PROCEDURES

13 publications

6 targeted reports on specific areas of animal use

6 expert working groups

### CHALLENGING NECESSITY AND JUSTIFICATION

- Engaging with scientists
- Meeting with regulators
- Promoting effective ethical review



61% DECREASE

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES CAUSING SEVERE SUFFERING IN THE UK

[www.rspca.org.uk/severesuffering](http://www.rspca.org.uk/severesuffering)