

The use of animals in science

Attitudes towards animals, and the legislation in place regarding their use and welfare, can differ widely between countries

Countries vary in whether, and how, they count and report animal experiments. Some significant users (e.g. Russia, India, Brazil) provide little or no information

Around the world it is estimated
+ 100 million animals
are used in experiments every year



3 Licences

are needed from the UK Home Office

Establishment

131

Project

2,294

Personal

13,311*

*Data from 2024

In the UK
2.5 million animals
are used each year

 **MICE**
56%

 **FISH**
12%

 **RATS**
9%

 **BIRDS**
9%

Most used animals

Experiments

52%
procedures

Creation and breeding of
genetically altered animals

48%
procedures

Breeding
and
transport

Housing,
handling,
humane
killing

Experimental
procedures
and their
effects

Sources of potential suffering

Mild
48.6%**

Moderate
28.9%**

Severe
1.3%**

3Rs and ethics

Replacement

Using humane methods
which avoid or replace
the use of animals

Reduction

Minimising the numbers
of animals used to
answer the scientific
question

Refinement

Improving experiments,
housing and care to
reduce suffering
throughout animals'
lives

Each project proposal must undergo a harm-benefit analysis

Potential benefits
to people or other
animals

Expected harm
to animals