

Policy Statement

Research involving animals has played a central role in modern medicine, underpinning our current understanding of how the body functions in health and disease and enabling the development of important new treatments. The Crick is committed to exploring alternatives to research using animals. In many areas of biomedical research, however, work with animals remains essential, and we will ensure that animal welfare is always given the highest priority. We support public dialogue on the use of animals in research, and will openly explain the aims and methods of our research.

Anyone undertaking research at The Crick that involves the use of protected animals is responsible for ensuring compliance with the following statutory regulations:

- Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 [ASPA]
- Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Welfare of Animals in Transport Order

The Crick supports biomedical research using animals providing:

- It has been successfully and independently peer reviewed
- It has been approved by The Crick Biological Research Facility Strategic Oversight Committee (BRF-SOC) incorporating Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)
- It is fully compliant with Home Office Regulations
- The 3R's - replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research - have been actively considered and applied, and no viable non-animal alternatives exist
- All local mechanisms and procedures for animal welfare have been applied.

The Use of Animals in Research Policy applies to anyone undertaking research and training within the Francis Crick Institute. This includes those funded from external sources and/or with visiting worker status, students and any workers provided by a third party agency.

Principles

1. Animals should be given due respect and care by all who look after, handle or perform experiments on them.
2. The Crick supports and encourages employees to be as open and transparent as possible about the use of animals in research.
3. The Crick is a signatory on the Concordat on Openness on animal research in the UK.
4. All work must have received the appropriate local and regulatory approval and be terminated if any such authorisations are withdrawn.
5. Researchers, appropriate veterinary and animal care staff are responsible for the design and conduct of research using animals, including consideration of the fate of the animals once the research is concluded. When collaborating with other laboratories researchers should satisfy themselves that welfare standards are consistent with the principles of UK & EU legislation.
6. All those working with animals must give appropriate consideration and apply the 3Rs.
7. Outputs from BRF-SOC and its AWERB subcommittees are clearly disseminated to all staff.
8. When Crick employees are asked to act as a peer reviewer assessing grant proposals, they are responsible for assessing the validity, necessity and justification of research using animals.
9. Researchers involved in the use of animals are actively encouraged to promote an understanding of the need to use animals in research. Also, where possible, they should include in their published papers information that would be likely to help others in the field implement the 3Rs in similar experiments.
10. All staff must adhere to local health, safety and security standards and report to their manager any breaches in these procedures.
11. Any individual who feels these principles are not being fully adhered to, or have any concerns with respect to the health and welfare of animals should raise this promptly, in the first instance with their line manager, a Named Person (ASPA) or senior member of the BRF, the Establishment Licence Holder or through the Institute's policy on Whistleblowing.