

Our animal research policy

Our mission is to find and fund life-saving research around the world to end the suffering and death caused by cancer.

To achieve this, we support pioneering, innovative research that aims to find new and better ways of preventing, diagnosing, and treating cancer.

Research methods are improving all the time, but there is still so much that can only be found out through research using animals. This is why we believe properly regulated animal research is both necessary and justified when there is no other alternative.

Without animal research, we would simply not be able to translate ground-breaking discoveries into new tests or treatments for cancer that could save millions of lives.

As a member of the UK's Association of Medical Research Charities, we fully support their position statement on the use of animals in research. The full statement can be found [here](#).

1. As a UK-based charity and AMRC member, Worldwide Cancer Research is guided primarily by UK legislation and practice in this area.

Therefore:

- a) Throughout this policy the term 'animal research' refers to research that uses species protected under UK law. Broadly this means any live vertebrate.
 - b) Worldwide Cancer Research will consider research on mammals with special protection under UK law (cats, horses, dogs and non-human primates), subject to the clauses below. Such proposals will undergo an additional layer of external peer review by the UK's [National Centre for the 3Rs](#) for an expert assessment of animal welfare.
 - c) Worldwide Cancer Research will not fund research that clearly would not be licensed in the UK, for example research involving great apes, endangered species or very severe experimental procedures.
2. Worldwide Cancer Research will only fund animal research in countries or institutes where the Trustees are confident that acceptable standards of laboratory animal welfare are applied. When considering what constitutes an acceptable standard, Worldwide Cancer Research puts great emphasis on the principle of the Three R's (Reduction, Refinement and Replacement).
 3. The Trustees use several benchmarks to decide which countries or institutions meet the criteria of an acceptable standard of laboratory animal welfare. These are:
 - a) National legislative controls meeting the requirements of European Directive 2010/63/EU (or any directives that supersede it).

- b) Local committee-based regulatory systems offering a level of control equivalent to that exercised in the USA and Canada.
 - c) Any formal regulatory system, whether local, national or a combination of the two, which results in a level of laboratory animal welfare at least equivalent to that produced by a) or b) above.
4. Based on the benchmarks above, the following countries are deemed to have acceptable national standards of laboratory animal welfare:
- All EU Member States
 - Switzerland
 - Australia
 - New Zealand
 - Canada
 - Norway
 - USA
 - Israel
 - Singapore

Subject to meeting the criteria of this policy, grant applications involving animal research will be accepted from these countries.

5. Worldwide Cancer Research recognises that individual institutions may enforce their own animal welfare regulations in the absence of more widespread national controls. The charity is willing to consider documentary evidence that might show a research institution based outside the countries listed above upholds an acceptable standard of laboratory animal welfare. If so, special permission will be granted to the institution to apply for animal research funding. Please note this permission must be obtained before any grant applications are submitted or the application(s) will be rejected.

Worldwide Cancer Research reserves the right to amend this policy at any time. Questions about this policy should be addressed to the Research Funding team, grants@worldwidecancerresearch.org.