

# Policy on the use of Animals in Research

## 1. Background

1.1 The University of Manchester (the University) is committed to excellence in research. This includes research that aims to alleviate human suffering, improve the human condition, safeguard our environment, and promote animal welfare and conservation. The University accepts that in order to pursue this commitment there is sometimes a need to use animals in its research. However, it permits the use of animals in scientific procedures **only** where there is no reasonable alternative available.

1.2 Where animals are used in research, the University requires the very highest level of ethical conduct and practice. The reduction of any harm and discomfort caused to animals must always be a priority consideration. Animals being housed for the purposes of research must be cared for with the highest standards of husbandry. Where animals are being observed in their natural habitat, care must be taken not to damage their environment and, where applicable, official permits must be obtained from the appropriate governing body of the country concerned prior to any animals being disturbed or collected for study.

## 2. Purpose

2.1 This policy sets out the principles upon which **all** research activities involving animals should be conducted and defines which studies require ethical review.

2.2 This policy applies to all staff, students and persons undertaking research with the intention of publishing the work under the address of the University of Manchester. This policy also applies to work carried out by external companies using University facilities.

2.3 For the purposes of this policy, the types of research that involve animals are divided into the following categories:

## 3. Categories of research involving animals covered by this Policy

The use of animals by persons associated with the University can be categorised as:

- A. The use of living vertebrates and cephalopods in scientific procedures within the University and the UK which are regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 ([ASPA](#)).
- B. The use of living vertebrates and cephalopods in scientific procedures that would fall under the definitions of ASPA if conducted in the UK but are being conducted outside the UK.

- C. The use of tissue in research harvested from living vertebrates and cephalopods killed solely for that purpose regardless of where the animals or tissue were sourced.
- D. The use of animals in scientific enquiry not regulated under ASPA 1986 because the animals are not vertebrates or cephalopods, or the research does not involve the animal in scientific procedures. (For example, the non-invasive use of live animals in the Manchester Museum for public education and conservation purposes and some behavioural and observation work within the University and on educational field courses).

#### **4. General Principles of Ethical Conduct when Involving Animals in Research**

- 4.1 Research should be planned with the welfare of the animals in mind, including the protection of the environment in which they live.
- 4.2 Ethical issues concerning the use of animals must always be considered and, where required under Section 7 of this policy, should undergo appropriate ethical review.
- 4.3 Anyone involved in the care and handling of animals must be properly trained and fully aware of the legal and ethical issues involved.
- 4.4 Academic activities that involve the collection of samples at home and overseas must adhere to any legislation, regulations and good practice guidelines that govern the activities being undertaken, including the catch/release of any invertebrate or vertebrate animal on University field courses and the import and export of animals or their tissue.
- 4.5 Researchers have an ethical obligation to make their research findings (including negative findings) from such research, publicly available, where appropriate and possible.

#### **5. Additional specific principles of ethical conduct for research involving vertebrates and cephalopods in scientific procedures**

- 5.1 Research in the UK involving vertebrates and cephalopods being subject to scientific procedures that may cause pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm must comply with the provisions of ASPA. The animals involved should be kept in accordance with the codes of practice issued under the Act.
- 5.2 The University is committed to implementing standards which reflect contemporary good practice, including when these exceed the minimum requirements of legislation and codes of practice. The University expects all those involved in this type of animal research to adhere to the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction's (NC3Rs) Guidelines; "[Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#)".
- 5.3 The University embraces the principles of Replacement, Refinement and Reduction (3R's) in animal research and researchers are expected to explore models that replace, reduce or refine the use of animals in their research.

- 5.4 Animals must only be used in scientific procedures where absolutely no suitable alternative is available. Replacement of animal models must always be the first consideration irrespective of whether the research falls under ASPA.
- 5.5 Where the use of animals is justified, the number of animals used must be reduced to the minimum number that is scientifically viable and appropriate steps must be taken to refine the research so that discomfort to the animals is minimised.
- 5.6 Careful consideration should be given at the project planning stage to the fate of the animals at the end of the programme of work (e.g. euthanasia, rehoming, and release). Where an animal is to be killed, tissue and blood products of value to research should be utilised wherever possible, including sharing with other researchers.
- 5.7 Research undertaken overseas must comply with any local regulations in that country and be conducted in accordance with the University's ethical standards.
- 5.8 The reporting of research involving animals in scientific procedures should conform to the [ARRIVE guidelines](#) set out by NC3Rs.

## **6. Roles and responsibilities**

- 6.1 The University Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer is legally responsible for compliance with ASPA. S/he is required, amongst other things, to have an ethical review process in place to advise him/her on ethical aspects of the work, animal welfare, the training and competency of individuals involved in animal research and the suitability of support staff and facilities. The ethical review process complies with the ASPA requirement that the Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer (NACWO) and the Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) are involved.
- 6.2 The Associate Vice President for Compliance, Risk and Research Integrity is chair of the University's Research Compliance Committee which receives quarterly reports on the ethical use of animals in research and compliance with ASPA and other legislation that govern the use of animals in research.
- 6.3 The Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer (NACWO) ensures that the requirements of ASPA are met and the highest standards of animal husbandry are implemented, and makes recommendations to the Ethical Review Process about individual projects.
- 6.4 The Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) is employed to ensure the health of laboratory animals, to approve the anaesthesia and analgesia regimes proposed in all projects, to authorise the use of any prescription drugs and make recommendations to the Ethical Review Process about individual projects.
- 6.5 Principal Investigators are responsible for ensuring that:

- Studies involving animals are planned ethically and with the welfare of the animals in mind, receive the appropriate ethical approval, as required, and comply with the appropriate legislation.
- All those involved in projects that come under ASPA have a personal licence, where required, and an appropriate project licence is in place.
- All individuals involved in research are appropriately trained and receive adequate supervision and records of the training and supervision are kept.
- They and their researchers are fully conversant with the legislation governing the research and any relevant codes of practice.
- They are committed to keeping up-to-date with and implementing the latest good practice in relation to ethical standards.
- They are committed to replacing, refining and reducing the use of animals in scientific procedures.
- Where their research is part of a collaboration, the research conducted by the collaborator, including where this is outside of the UK, is conducted to the standards expected by the University of Manchester.<sup>1</sup>
- Research outputs are published in accordance with the principles of NC3Rs' ARRIVE guidelines as appropriate.

6.6 Researchers, including students, conducting research involving animals are responsible for conducting their research to the highest ethical standards in accordance with this policy and ensuring they have the appropriate training and licence for any procedures to be carried out.

## 7. Ethical Review Requirements

The ethical review requirements for each category of animal research listed in section 3 are indicated here. Full details of the ethical review requirements can be found in the supporting guidance document.

- A. The use of living vertebrates and cephalopods in scientific procedures within the University and the UK which are regulated by ASPA.

Since 1999, all UK establishments designated under the ASPA have been required by a condition on the certificate to have an ethical review process which should advise the certificate holder and support named persons and licensees on animal welfare and ethical issues, and develop the widest possible application of the 3Rs.

Research that falls into category A requires full ethical approval by the University's Local Ethical Review Process (LERP).

- B. The use of living vertebrates and cephalopods in scientific procedures that would fall under the definitions of ASPA if conducted in the UK but are being conducted outside the EU.

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<sup>1</sup>This policy applies prospectively. Data collected prior to the approval date of this policy may be co-authored within one year of the policy coming into effect irrespective of compliance with this clause. Where data is already in the public domain it may be used irrespective of compliance with this clause.

Research that falls into category B (collaboration with other laboratories outside of the EU, or where animal facilities are being provided by third parties outside of the EU) requires ethical approval by the University's LERP.

The ethics committee will need to be satisfied that the welfare standards are consistent with UK and local legislation, and that the principles set out in this policy are applied and maintained.

- C. The use of tissue in research harvested from living vertebrates and cephalopods killed solely for that purpose regardless of where the animals or tissue were sourced.

The killing of a protected animal by an appropriate humane method listed in Schedule 1 of the ASPA, is not a procedure regulated by law, even if the killing is performed to provide material for scientific or other experimental purposes.

Research that falls into category C requires appropriate and proportionate ethical review by the University.

- D. The use of animals in scientific enquiry not regulated under ASPA 1986 because the animals are not vertebrates or cephalopods or the research does not involve the animal in scientific procedures. (For example some behavioural and observation work within the University and field courses where animals are used).

Research that falls into category D may require appropriate and proportionate ethical review.

## 8. Definitions

ASPA            Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

NACWO        Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer

NVS            Named Veterinary Surgeon

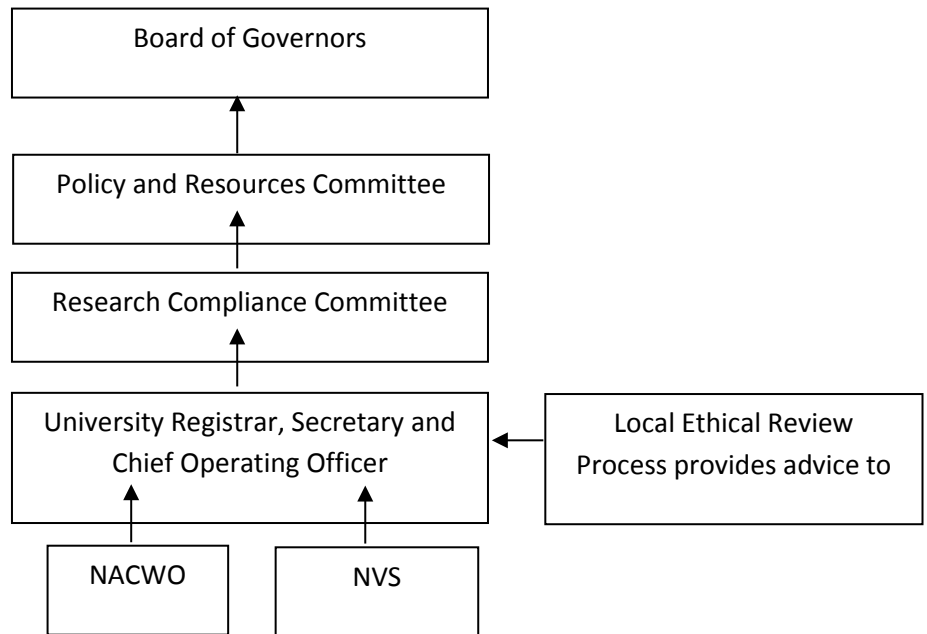
NC3Rs        National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction

The 3Rs:      **Replacement** – methods which avoid or replace the use of animals in research that has the potential to cause them harm.

**Refinement** – improvements to procedures and husbandry which minimise actual or potential pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm and/or improve animal welfare in situations where the use of animals is unavoidable.

**Reduction** – methods which minimise animal use and enable researchers to obtain comparable levels of information from fewer animals or to obtain more information from the same number of animals, thereby reducing future use of animals.

## 9. Compliance Reporting Relationships



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