

Policy on the use of Animals in Research and Teaching Activities

1. Background

- 1.1 The University of Manchester (the University) is committed to excellence in all aspects of research and teaching. This includes activities that aim 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 these commitments there is sometimes a need to use animals (and animal tissue/cells) in its activities.
- 1.2 The University permits the use of animals in scientific procedures **only** when the work is addressing an important and legitimate question and when there are no adequate alternative approaches available.
- 1.3 Where animals are involved, 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 any purpose 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 or otherwise perturb 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.
- 1.4 The University is committed to transparency and public engagement in its activities involving animals as set out in its [communications and engagement strategy](#), and is signatory to the Concordat on Openness in Animal Research.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 This policy sets out the principles upon which **all** University activities involving animals should be conducted and defines which activities require ethical review.
- 2.2 This policy applies to all staff, students and persons undertaking research and/or teaching. This policy also applies to work carried out by external bodies/persons using University facilities.
- 2.3 For the purposes of this policy, the types of research and/or teaching that involve animals are divided into the following categories:

3. Categories of research and/or teaching 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](#)) and Amendment Regulations 2012 (“the Act”).

- 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 harvested from living vertebrates and cephalopods killed solely for research or teaching regardless of where the animals or tissue were sourced.
- D. The use of animals in research and/or teaching not regulated under ASPA 1986 because the animals are not vertebrates or cephalopods, or the activity does not involve the animal undergoing 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 conducting activities involving animals

- 4.1 Activities involving animals should be planned with the welfare of the animals in mind, including the protection of the environment in which they live and minimising distress to the animal.
- 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 in the UK 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 Animal tissue required for teaching/research activities must be sourced ethically in order to minimise the number of animals killed specifically for the purpose.
- 4.6 Researchers who acquire animals/animal tissue (including cells) from overseas must ensure they comply with the [Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization](#).
- 4.7 Researchers who use animals/animal tissue must maintain detailed records of where animals/tissue were sourced and number of animals used.
- 4.8 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 activities involving vertebrates and cephalopods in scientific procedures

- 5.1 Research and teaching 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. Staff and students are required to adhere to both local and University-wide standards and procedures.
- 5.3 The University embraces the principles of Replacement, Refinement and Reduction (3Rs) in activities involving animals. Staff and students are expected to explore models that replace, reduce or refine the use of animals in their activities. The University expects all those who conduct research involving animals in scientific procedures to adhere to the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction's (NC3Rs) Guidelines; "[Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#)".
- 5.4 Animals must only be used in scientific procedures where absolutely no suitable alternative is available. Replacement of animal models by alternative approaches that do not require the use of animals must always be the first consideration irrespective of whether the activity falls under ASPA.
- 5.5 Animals must only be used in teaching activities where the learning objectives cannot be achieved without the use of animals or their tissues.
- 5.6 Where the use of animals is justified, the number of animals used must be reduced to the minimum number to achieve the required objectives. Statistical advice must be sought prior to any work being carried out.
- 5.7 Appropriate steps must be taken to refine the activity so that discomfort to animals is minimised.
- 5.8 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 or teaching should be utilised wherever possible, including sharing with other scientists.
- 5.9 Research and/or teaching, including field work undertaken overseas must comply with any local regulations in that country and be conducted in accordance with the University's ethical standards.
- 5.10 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, as Establishment Licence Holder, is legally responsible for compliance with ASPA. S/he is required, amongst other things, to have an Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) 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/or teaching and the suitability of support staff and facilities. The AWERB complies with the ASPA requirement that the Named Animal Care and Welfare

Officer (NACWO) and the Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) are involved and that the Named Training and Competency Officer (NTCO)/ Named Information Officer (NIO) is actively engaged.

- 6.2 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 AWERB about individual projects.
- 6.3 The Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) is employed to advise on the health and welfare of laboratory animals, to advise on the anaesthesia and analgesia regimes proposed in all projects, to advise on the therapeutic use of any prescription drugs and make recommendations to the AWERB about individual projects.
- 6.4 The University's Research Compliance Committee receives quarterly reports on the ethical use of animals in University activities and compliance with ASPA and other legislation that governs the use of animals by the University, including this policy.
- 6.5 Principal Investigators are responsible for ensuring that:
 - Studies involving animals or their tissue are planned ethically and with the welfare of the animals in mind, receive the appropriate ethical approval, as required, and comply with all appropriate legislation.
 - All those involved in projects that come under ASPA have a Home Office personal licence, where required, and an appropriate project licence is in place.
 - All individuals involved in studies are appropriately trained and receive adequate supervision and records of the training and supervision are kept.
 - They and their researchers/fellow teachers are fully conversant with the legislation governing the research and any relevant codes of practice (including this policy).
 - 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 and teaching.
 - Where their research is part of a collaboration, the research conducted by the collaborator, including if this is outside of the UK, is conducted to the standards expected by the University of Manchester.
 - Research outputs are published in accordance with the principles of NC3Rs' ARRIVE guidelines as appropriate.
- 6.6 Staff and students, conducting activities involving animals are responsible for conducting these activities 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.

- 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 Licensed under the ASPA have been required by a condition on the Licence to have an ethical review process which should advise the Establishment Licence 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 AWERB.

- 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.

Activities that fall 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) require ethical approval by the University's AWERB.

AWERB will also 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 collected from living vertebrates and cephalopods killed solely for research or teaching purposes regardless of where the animals or tissue were sourced. The sourcing of animals or tissue must be from an appropriate supplier.

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

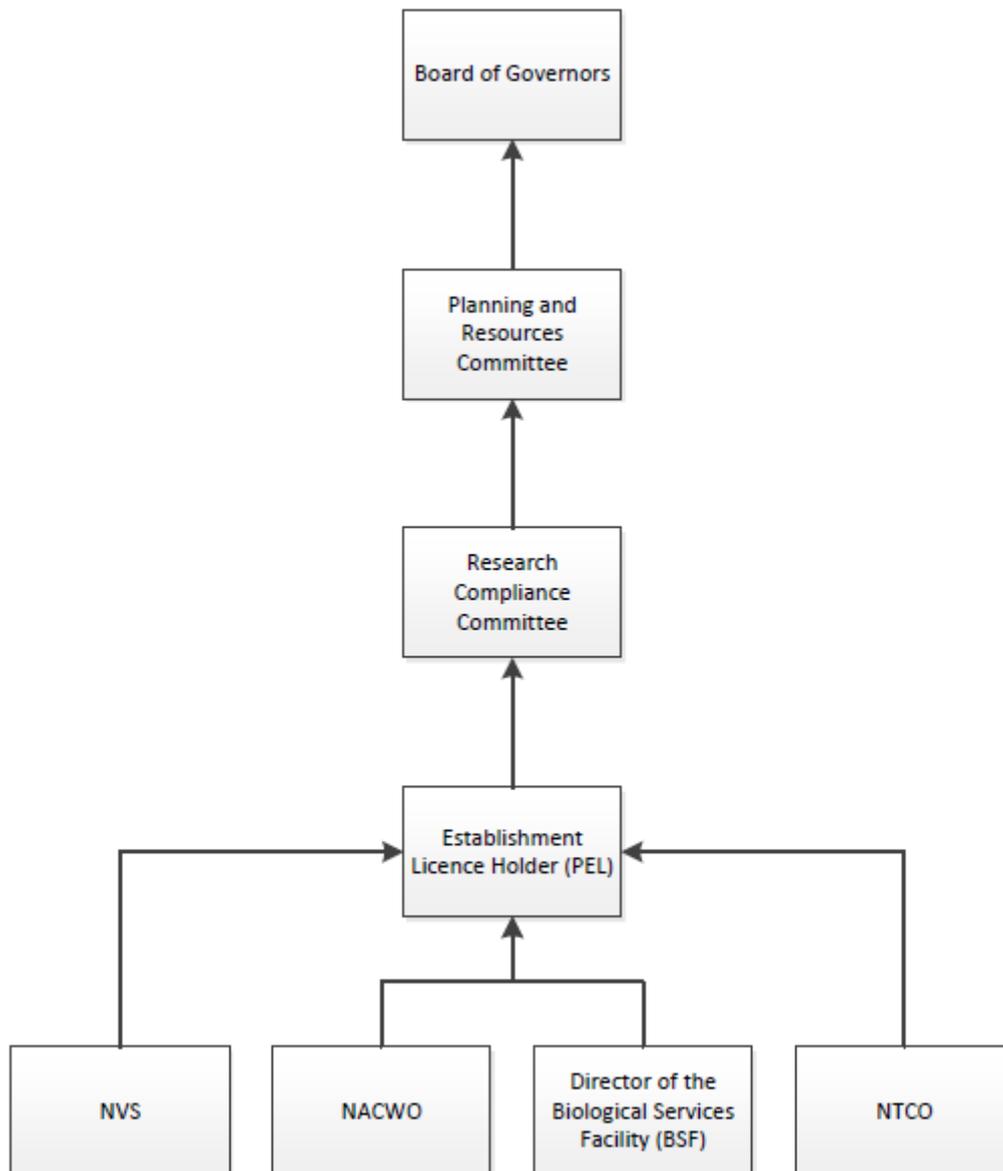
- D. The use of animals in scientific enquiry not regulated under ASPA 1986 because the animals are not vertebrates or cephalopods or the research does not involve the animal in scientific procedures. (For example some behavioural and observation work within the University and field courses where animals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

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

8. Definitions

ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments
ASPA	Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986
AWERB	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
NACWO	Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer
NC3Rs	National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction
NIO	Named Information Officer
NTCO	Named Training and Competency Officer
NVS	Named Veterinary Surgeon
The 3Rs:	<p>Replacement – methods which avoid or replace the use of animals in research that has the potential to cause them harm.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Scientific Procedure	any experimental or other procedure applied to an animal which may have the effect of causing that animal pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm.

9. Compliance Reporting Relationships



Document control box	
Policy title:	Policy on the use of animals in research and teaching activities
Date approved:	9 March 2022
Approving body:	Planning and Resources Committee
Version:	1.2
Supersedes:	1.0
Previous review dates:	March 2022
Next review date:	March 2025
Related Statutes, Ordinances, General Regulations:	
Equality relevance outcome:	
Related policies:	N/A
Related procedures:	N/A
Related guidance and or codes of practice:	Code of Good Research Conduct Code of Practice for Investigation Concerns about the Conduct of Research
Related information:	N/A