



## **Policy on the Use of Animals in Research**

1. Meningitis Research Foundation is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities and will only fund research involving animals when this is essential to the outcome of the research, there is no alternative method of obtaining the data, and when pain and distress to animals is minimised. AMRC is a signatory on the [Concordat on openness on animal research](#).
2. The use of animals must be fully justified with supporting material in all applications for research grants.
3. The Foundation recognises that experiments on animals can be an essential part of research to improve the understanding and treatment of human and animal disease. The Charity requires, however, that all experiments should be carried out with the highest concern for the welfare of the animals, and using the minimum number necessary to provide clear data in well-designed experiments that are subject to rigorous and expert peer review.
4. All research projects funded by the Foundation which involve the use of protected animals in regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 must have a Home Office project licence, and each individual working on experiments using animals must have a personal licence. The institution must also have an establishment licence.
5. Researchers undertaking projects involving animals outside the UK must take all necessary measures to comply with their country's regulations on the use of animals in scientific experiments.
6. The Foundation supports the AMRC statement on the [use of animals in research](#). All applicants and grant holders must commit to high standards of animal welfare, in order to minimise discomfort for the animals and support reliable results, and to the '3Rs' of reduction, replacement and refinement. Research projects must implement the principles in the cross funder guidance ['Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Biosciences Research'](#) and make use of the 'ARRIVE' guidelines in designing their study.
7. Grant holders should make use of the [PREPARE guidelines](#) to help plan experiments. PREPARE covers the three broad areas which determine the quality of the preparation for animal studies: Formulation of the study; Dialogue between scientists and the animal facility; and Methods.
8. Grant holders should make use of the [ARRIVE guidelines](#) and the report ['Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research'](#) for reporting research involving animals, to maximise the quality and reliability of published research, and enable others to better scrutinise, evaluate and reproduce it.

9. The Foundation will not fund research applications which do not comply with this policy.