

# Policy: The use of animals in medical research

As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), Diabetes UK supports the principle of using animals in research. We believe it is an important part of the research process to advance understanding of serious health conditions and to develop better treatments but should only be used when there is no alternative. To achieve this, many types of research methods are harnessed in AMRC charity strategies. These include clinical trials, use of tissues samples, computer models and, when appropriate, animals. All approaches, including research using animals, play a vital role in the medical research process.

Please refer to the [AMRC statement](#) on the use of animals in research and the [AMRC guidance](#) which Diabetes UK follows when reviewing research which are using animals.

Diabetes UK will support research using animals in the UK subject to the following conditions:

1. the use of animals complies with:
  - o current UK legislation and regulation (including but not limited to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 as amended and re-enacted from time to time);
  - o Home Office guidelines as amended from time to time (<https://nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility-use-animals-bioscience-research>);
  - o “Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research: Expectations of the major research council and charitable funding bodies” (<https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs>); and
  - o the [ARRIVE](#) (Animal Research: Reporting *In Vivo* Experiments) guidelines (as amended from time to time);
2. it has approval from a local ethics committee;
3. consideration has been given to the [refinement, reduction or replacement of the animals](#) to be used and it has been established that no viable non-animal alternatives exist<sup>1</sup>; and
4. the research proposal has been peer reviewed by independent experts.

Any research funded by Diabetes UK which is conducted outside of the UK must, regardless of location, comply with the criteria set out above. It must also comply with any relevant legislation, regulation and guidelines from time to time in force in the jurisdiction in which the research is conducted. The Grantholder must promptly notify Diabetes UK if the number of animals he/she proposes to use in connection with the research funded by Diabetes UK increases materially at any time during the conduct of research from the number identified in the grant application.

<sup>1</sup>Diabetes UK is committed to the '3 Rs' principle to reduce, replace and refine. This means:

1. Reducing the number of animals used in experiments
2. Replacing their use with alternative methods where possible
3. Refining techniques to maximise animal welfare

When applying to Diabetes UK for funding applicants must give due consideration to the principle of the '3 Rs' and provide a justification as to why alternatives cannot be used in their application.