

Debate Pack  
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# Debate on an e-petition relating to the use of dogs in scientific and regulatory procedures

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# 1

## Background: the petition

An e-petition calling on the government to [ban immediately the use of dogs in scientific and regulatory procedures](#) (705384) will be debated on 28 April 2025. The debate will be held in Westminster Hall and opened by Irene Campbell MP (Labour).

E-petition 705384 is open until 14 August 2025 and has, to date, received 234,370 signatures. It proposes the following:

“As a first step to end animal testing, we want an immediate ban for dogs. They are commercially bred in what we see as bleak and inhumane factory-like conditions. We believe there is evidence suggesting that dogs are left being unattended for extended periods in a Government-licensed establishment.”

The government responded to the petition on 5 March 2025. It said that it did not agree with an immediate ban, but that it would work towards phasing out animal testing as a long-term goal:

“The government does not agree to the proposed immediate ban as international guidance still requires data from animal testing to ensure the safety of medicines and products before testing in humans.

While the use of animals in science, including for human medicines, generates significant debate, the carefully regulated use of animals in scientific research remains necessary to protect humans, animal health and the wider environment. The Government therefore does not agree to immediately ban the use of dogs for testing and research purposes in the UK.

The manifesto committed the Government to partner with scientists, industry, and civil society as we work towards the phasing out of animal testing. This is a long-term goal, and it will need further scientific and technical advancement and validation to reach this point but we are determined to work towards it. Currently the use of animals remains important for understanding how biological systems work, in the development of safe new medicines, treatments and technologies, and in testing chemicals.”

The government response describes the UK’s commitment to the 3Rs principles: to, as far as possible, replace, reduce and refine the use of animals in research. It also notes that a strategy for working towards the use of alternative methods to animal testing is expected to be published later in 2025:

“The Government will take steps to place the UK at the forefront of an alternative methods revolution and we believe that scientific advances make the prospects for change better than they have ever been. We are supporting and accelerating advances in biomedical science and technologies to reduce reliance on the use of animals in research and importantly to avoid some of the scientific limitations of animal models of human diseases. This includes

stem cell research, cell culture systems that mimic the function of human organs, imaging and new computer modelling and AI techniques based on very large data sets. DSIT [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology], Home Office and DEFRA [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs] Ministers have agreed to publish an alternative methods strategy to support the development, validation and uptake of alternative methods and the phasing out of animal testing. We expect to publish this strategy later this year.”

## 2

# Legislation and regulation

Scientific procedures involving animals are used in multiple research fields. Research in human and veterinary medicine may use animals to understand the structure, functioning and behaviour of living organisms and diseases, and to develop new medicines and treatments. Regulatory research uses animal experiments to fulfil legal requirements in relation to testing the safety of chemicals and materials.

In May 2023, the then Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, [announced a ban on new licences for animal testing of chemicals used exclusively as ingredients in cosmetics](#):

I can inform the House that the Government is taking action to seek alternatives to animal testing for worker and environmental safety of chemicals used exclusively as cosmetic ingredients. We are therefore announcing a licensing ban with immediate effect.

[...]

I can confirm, therefore, that from today no new licences will be granted for animal testing of chemicals that are exclusively intended to be used as ingredients in cosmetics products.<sup>1</sup>

There is no legislation in the UK that requires new medicines to be tested on animals. However the [Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986](#) permits animal testing where alternatives are not viable, and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) follows [international guidance](#) that says that new medicines should be studied for up to six months in rodents, and nine months in non-rodents before they are used in humans.<sup>2</sup>

A [PQ response from October 2024](#) set out that the government is engaging with the MHRA about accelerating (international) acceptance of non-animal methods for drug safety decision making:

Many of the regulations on animal testing are backed by international agreements and the government is keen to ensure regulatory alignment where appropriate. We are engaging with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), who represent the UK at the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use, on how to accelerate the acceptance of data generated using non-animal methods for drug safety decision making. Government officials and representatives of the NC3Rs [National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research] regularly

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<sup>1</sup> Statement UIN HCWS779 [Regulation Update](#), 17 May 2023

<sup>2</sup> International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals in Human Use (ICH), [M3\(R2\) Guidance on Nonclinical Safety Studies for the Conduct of Human Clinical Trials and Marketing Authorization for Pharmaceuticals](#), 11 June 2009

attend international meetings to collaborate on best practice and to consider approaches to reducing reliance on animal testing.<sup>3</sup>

## 2.1 Using protected animals in research

The [Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986](#) (ASPA) regulates the use of protected animals in any experimental or other scientific procedure which may cause pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm to the animal.<sup>4</sup> Government [guidance on the operation of ASPA](#) was published by the Home Office (March 2014). This guidance sets out the threshold at which regulation applies:

A procedure is regulated if it is carried out on a protected animal for a scientific or educational purpose and may cause that animal a level of pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm equivalent to, or higher than, that caused by inserting a hypodermic needle according to good veterinary practice.<sup>5</sup>

Regulated procedures involving animals can be acts:

- of commission, for example, an action such as dosing or sampling; or
- of deliberate omission, for example, withholding food or water; or
- of permission, for example, the natural breeding of animals with harmful genetic defects.<sup>6</sup>

Procedures are classified according to the degree of pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm that is expected to be experienced by each animal involved. Procedures may be classed as:

- Non-recovery, when an animal is placed under a general anaesthetic before a procedure and will not regain consciousness;
- Mild, moderate or severe, according to the extent and duration of the pain, suffering and distress expected to be experienced.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [Animal Experiments: Standards, UIN 11002](#), tabled on 24 October 2024

<sup>4</sup> [Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986](#)

<sup>5</sup> Home Office, [Guidance on the operation of the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 \(ASPA\)](#), March 2014, page 10

<sup>6</sup> Home Office, [Guidance on the operation of the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 \(ASPA\)](#), March 2014, page 10

<sup>7</sup> Home Office, [Guidance on the operation of the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 \(ASPA\)](#), March 2014, page 118 (Appendix G)

In addition, procedures can be retrospectively categorised as ‘sub-threshold’, when a project licence holder considers that an animal did not experience pain, suffering or distress that would meet the threshold for regulation.<sup>8</sup>

ASPA requires the expected benefits from a research project to outweigh the costs of animal suffering, and only permits the use of animals where no viable alternative research method is available. Standard Condition 2 for project licences states:

2. The licence holder shall ensure that the specified programme of work does not involve the application of any regulated procedure to which there is a scientifically satisfactory alternative method or testing strategy not entailing the use of a protected animal.<sup>9</sup>

## 2.2 Regulatory bodies

Administration and enforcement of ASPA in England, Scotland and Wales is the responsibility of the [Animals in Science Regulation Unit](#) (ASRU), which is part of the Home Office. Its activities include:

- giving advice on the regulations
- managing the licences required by ASPA
- working to make sure licence holders comply with ASPA and the terms of their licences<sup>10</sup>

In Northern Ireland, the Department of Health carries out this role and reports its activities separately.

The [Animals in Science Committee](#) (ASC) is an independent committee which advises the Home Office and the NI Department of Health on matters relating to animal testing in the UK. Further information and reports from the ASC can be found [online](#).

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<sup>8</sup> Home Office, [Guidance on the operation of the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 \(ASPA\)](#), March 2014, page 58

<sup>9</sup> Home Office, [Guidance on the operation of the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 \(ASPA\)](#), March 2014, page 108 (Appendix C)

<sup>10</sup> Home Office, [Animals in Science Regulation Unit](#), 23 January 2025

## 2.3 Licences

Scientific procedures covered by ASPA are subject to a triple licencing system enforced by the Home Office. Three kinds of licences are required for any procedures on animals to be carried out:

- a personal licence for each person carrying out procedures on animals;
- a project licence for the programme of work; and
- an establishment licence for the place at which the work is carried out.<sup>11</sup>

## 2.4 Protected species

Guidance on the operation of ASPA states that under the Act, a protected animals is “any living vertebrate, other than man, and any living cephalopod”.<sup>12</sup> A cephalopod is an animal belonging to the group Cephalopoda, which includes squid, octopus, cuttlefish, and nautilus.

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012 made several changes to the ASPA, including the addition of cephalopods as ‘protected’ animals.

The government guidance sets out the stage at which embryonic or foetal forms become protected:

Embryonic and fetal forms of mammals, birds and reptiles are protected animals once they have reached the last third of their gestation or incubation period.

Larval forms of fish and amphibians are protected animals once they are capable of feeding independently. Cephalopods are protected animals from the point when they hatch.

A procedure carried out on a fetal, larval or embryonic form at an earlier stage of development may be a regulated procedure<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Home Office, [Animal testing and research: guidance for the regulated community](#), 18 December 2024

<sup>12</sup> Home Office, [Guidance on the operation of the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 \(ASPA\) \(accessible\)](#), 8 October 2024

<sup>13</sup> Home Office, [Guidance on the operation of the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 \(ASPA\) \(accessible\)](#), 8 October 2024

## Dogs

[Schedule 2B of ASPA](#) requires that additional conditions are met for project licences that would involve the use of animals including dogs:

Project licences authorising the use of cats, dogs and Equidae [animals from the horse family]

4.(1)A project licence that would authorise the application of regulated procedures to cats, dogs or equidae must not be granted unless the Secretary of State has verified that Condition 9 is met.

(2)Condition 9 is that the purpose of the programme of work to be specified in the licence can be achieved—

(a)only by the use of cats, dogs or equidae; or

(b)only by the use of cats, dogs, equidae and other animals which it is not practicable to obtain.<sup>14</sup>

In addition to general guidance on ASPA, the Government also publishes [a code of practice for the care and accommodation of animals](#) licenced for use under ASPA, which includes specific requirements for dogs.<sup>15</sup> This sets out details of how dogs should be treated and housed.

In addition, the 3NCRs (the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research) publishes [guidance on dog housing and husbandry](#), setting out key principles and the reasons why welfare considerations are important:

Background on dog use and quality of science

Dogs (mainly purpose-bred beagles) are used in research primarily for safety, metabolic and pharmacokinetic assessment of new pharmaceuticals. Findings from dogs with compromised welfare may lead to unreliable conclusions as a result of reduced sensitivity, reliability or repeatability of data due to stress responses. Therefore it is scientifically important to be able to assess animal welfare, using robust welfare indicators, and to promote good welfare through refinement of housing, husbandry and procedures. Research staff should familiarise themselves with the literature supporting the link between good welfare and high quality data output, in order to reduce unwanted or uncontrolled variation, avoid floor or ceiling effects, and maximise the likelihood of detecting the effect under observation.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> [Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986, Schedule 2B](#)

<sup>15</sup> Home Office, [Code of practice for the housing and care of animals bred, supplied or used for scientific purposes](#), 17 December 2014

<sup>16</sup> NC3Rs, [Housing and husbandry: Dog](#), 26 September 2014



There is an extensive literature on the care and welfare of laboratory dogs. The US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine has published [an overview of this material](#).<sup>17</sup>

## 2.5

### The 3Rs

The 3Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement) are a set of internationally recognised [principles that aim to make research involving animals more humane](#).<sup>18</sup> Following these principles, all potential research projects involving animals should consider:

- Replacement: that, wherever possible, a scientifically satisfactory method or testing strategy not entailing the use of protected animals must be used instead of a regulated procedure
- Reduction: that whenever a programme of work involving the use of protected animals is carried out the number of protected animals used must be reduced to a minimum without compromising the objectives of the programme
- Refinement: that the breeding, accommodation and care of protected animals and the methods used in regulated procedures applied to such animals must be refined so as to eliminate or reduce to the minimum any possible pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm to those animals<sup>19</sup>

These principles are embedded in ASPA. The standard conditions set out in establishment, project and personal licences for conducting animal research require licence holders to carry out their activities in a way that is consistent with these principles.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine and others, [Care and Welfare of Laboratory Dogs Used in Biomedical Research Funded by or Conducted at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#), 1 July 2020

<sup>18</sup> NC3Rs, [The 3Rs](#), no date, accessed 2 February 2024

<sup>19</sup> [Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986](#), section 2A

<sup>20</sup> Home Office, [Guidance on the operation of the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 \(ASPA\) \(accessible\)](#), 8 October 2024

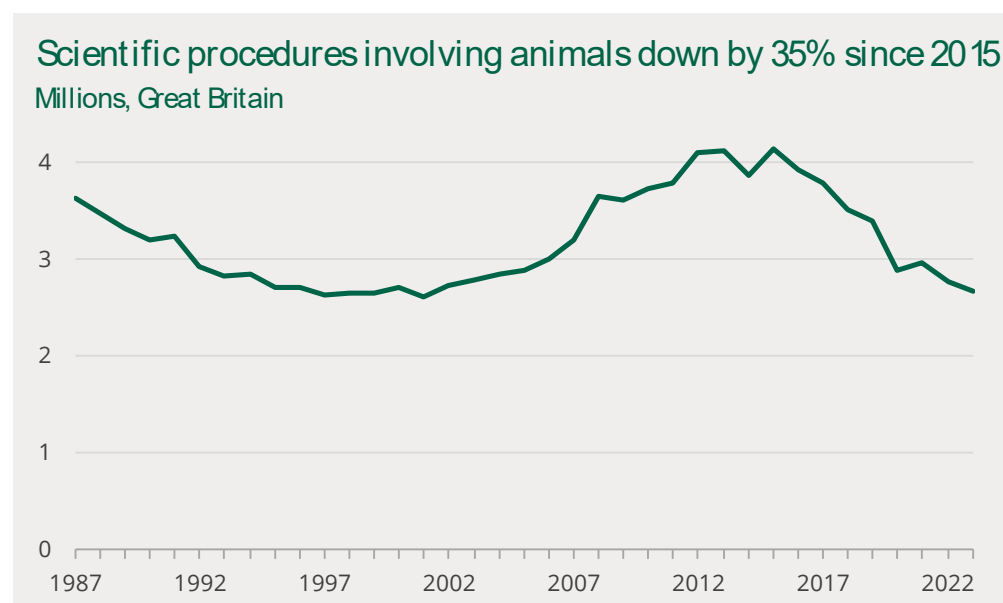
## 3

## Animal experiment statistics

The UK Government publishes statistics on the use of animals in experimental procedures in its annual publication [Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals](#). These cover Great Britain and the latest figures show that:<sup>21</sup>

- In 2023, there were 2.7 million completed procedures involving living animals in Great Britain. This was a decrease of 3% compared to 2022 and the lowest number since 2001. These were regulated procedures, meaning they involved animals for an experimental or other scientific purpose, or for breeding genetically altered (GA) animals.
- Of these procedures, around 1.5 million were experimental procedures on living animals and the remaining 1.2 million were cases of the breeding and creation of GA animals.
- 2.6 million animals were used for the first time in scientific procedures in 2023. This was down by 35% on the recent peak of 4.1 million in 2015.
- 78% of the animals used in these procedures were mice. The next most often used animals were Zebrafish (12%), rats (6%) and chickens (2%).

The following chart looks at long-term trends in scientific procedures involving animals.



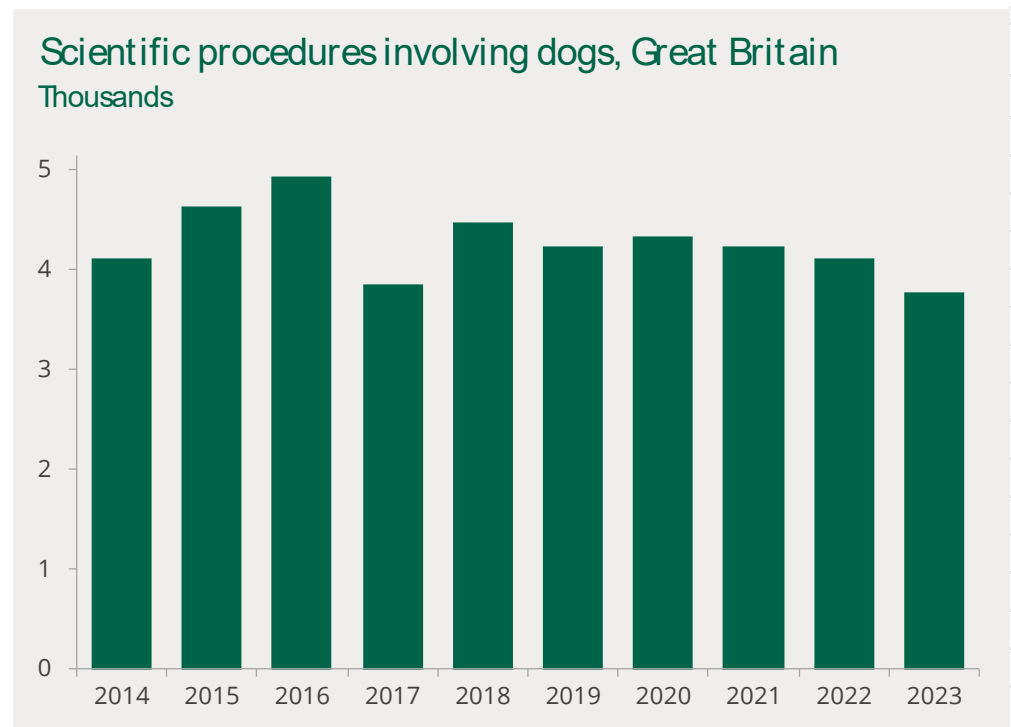
Source: Home Office, [Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, Great Britain: 2023](#) (and earlier versions)

<sup>21</sup> Home Office, [Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, Great Britain 2023](#), tables 1.1 and 1.3

## 3.1

### Animal procedures involving dogs

In 2023, there were 3,770 scientific procedures were carried out in Great Britain which involved dogs. 3,565 of these procedures involved beagles. More than 99% of these were experimental procedures and the rest were for breeding/creating GA animals. Recent trends are shown below.<sup>22</sup>



Source: Home Office, [Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, Great Britain: 2023](#), Table 1.2

Numbers of procedures involving dogs have generally fallen since the mid-2010s. The 2023 total was 24% lower than the recent high from 2016.

There were 2,477 dogs used for the first time in scientific procedures in 2023.<sup>23</sup>

Just under 70% of procedures on dogs in 2023 were for the purpose of regulatory research, which includes toxicity testing; the remainder were for basic research or translational/ applied research.<sup>24</sup>

Overall, just under 20% of procedures on dogs in 2023 were rated as having caused moderate or severe harm. This proportion was slightly higher, at 26%, for the sub-category of regulatory testing procedures. The main type of

<sup>22</sup> Home Office, [Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, Great Britain 2023](#), table 1.3

<sup>23</sup> Home Office, [Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, Great Britain 2023](#), table 1.2

<sup>24</sup> Home Office, [Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, Great Britain 2023](#), table 3.1

research within this sub-category was ‘repeated dose toxicity’ and these procedures were mostly rated as causing moderate harm.<sup>25</sup>

Dogs were the eighth most common type of mammal used in experimental procedures in 2023, after mice, rats, rabbits, sheep, pigs, guinea-pigs and cattle. More than one million experimental procedures were carried out on mice and rats in 2023 compared to 3,749 on dogs.

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<sup>25</sup> Home Office, [Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, Great Britain 2023](#), table 3.2

## 4

# Non-animal methods (NAMs)

Several terms are used to describe alternative methods for scientific research. These include non-animal methods, new approach methodologies, non-animal technologies and human-specific technologies. All of these terms refer to research and testing methods that do not involve animals.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the United States provides a list of [research methods that can help to reduce or replace the use of animals in research](#):

- Cell cultures and 3D tissue cultures (known as ‘organs-on-a-chip’ that mimic human organs) can be used to study biological and disease processes, and how drugs are processed by the human body.
- Human tissues, including diseased and healthy donated tissues, can be used to study human biology and disease.
- Computer modelling can be used to make predictions about the likely effects of substances in the human body.
- Human volunteers may also participate in clinical research studies.<sup>26</sup>

An article in Nature in April 2022 [reflecting on the effective use of NAMs in the development of covid-19 vaccines](#) highlighted how these approaches can be used in practice:

Non-animal technologies and methods for assessing chemical hazards, medical risks and therapies are called new approach methodologies (NAMs). They are already applied to develop consumer products for use outside the body. In 2013, the European Union banned animal tests to assess whether cosmetics were safe. Cell and computational methods filled the gaps. In 2018, a study found that combining non-animal methods to predict skin sensitization works as well as or better than the standard mouse test.

[...] In the past decade or so, alternative testing methods have become much more sophisticated, including use of 3D cell cultures, organoids, bioprinted tissues, computer models and ‘organs on a chip’, which can mimic interactions such as those between the digestive and immune systems.<sup>27</sup>

Proponents of NAMs emphasise their potential benefits over animal methods. [Animal Free Research UK](#) is a charity that campaigns for an end to animal testing and the use of alternative methods. This group has highlighted the potential for alternative methods based on human biology to

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<sup>26</sup> National Institutes of Health, [When Are Alternatives to Animals Used in Research?](#) 10 September 2024

<sup>27</sup> Merel Ritskes-Hoitinga, [Medical regulators: look beyond animal tests](#), 27 April 2022

[improve and speed up the development of new treatments for human diseases](#).<sup>28</sup>

In its [Strategy to 2030](#), the RSPCA includes an ambition to end the severe suffering of animals used in research.<sup>29</sup> It aims to “secure a global commitment to developing, validating and accepting non-animal technologies to replace animal experiments”.<sup>30</sup>

Cruelty Free International is a charity that campaigns for an end to animal testing and the use of alternative methods. Using data from 2022, they have reported on a number of animal procedures that have been carried out, despite [potential alternative methods being available](#).<sup>31</sup>

Other organisations, including universities which undertake medical research using animals have drawn attention to the limitations of non-animal methods. The University of Oxford has highlighted [the need to use animals to understand the complexity of living bodies](#).<sup>32</sup> Understanding Animal Research, a non-profit organisation that aims to improve understanding of how and why animals are used in research, has [argued that animal research is necessary to make medical advances](#) and to protect people, animals and the environment.<sup>33</sup>

## 4.1

## UK initiatives and funding for NAMs

The UK [National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research \(NC3Rs\)](#) is an independent body funded by UK research councils and charitable and commercial organisations. NC3Rs works with scientists to “replace, refine and reduce” the use of animals in research and testing.

The NC3Rs [Vision for 2015-2025](#) provides further detail on its aims with regards to replacing animal experiments and its website hosts [a new approach methodologies hub](#), providing information on activities and new technologies to support research.<sup>34</sup> The [NC3Rs strategy 2022 to 2024](#) says the organisation’s aims include “expanding the focus on replacement technologies,” by investing in non-animal methods.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Animal Free Research UK, [Animal replacement](#), no date, accessed 4 April 2025

<sup>29</sup> RSPCA, [Our strategy to 2030](#), no date, accessed 4 April 2025

<sup>30</sup> RSPCA, [Our strategy to 2030](#), no date, accessed 4 April 2025

<sup>31</sup> Cruelty Free International, [Replace Animal Tests: The UK RAT List](#), no date, accessed 4 April 2025

<sup>32</sup> University of Oxford, [Research using animals: an overview](#), no date, accessed 4 April 2025

<sup>33</sup> Understanding Animal Research, [Animal Research FAQs](#), no date, accessed 4 April 2025

<sup>34</sup> NC3R, [Our Vision: 2015-2025](#), no date, accessed 4 April 2025; NC3R, [New approach methodologies hub](#), no date, accessed 4 April 2025

<sup>35</sup> NC3R, [Strategy 2022-2024](#), no date, accessed 4 April 2025

UK research councils also support work on the 3Rs. In November 2015, NC3R and several research councils published [A non-animal technologies roadmap for the UK](#).<sup>36</sup> This document set out a vision for a “thriving UK NATs [non-animal technologies] sector” and a series of recommendations to support this, including to build capacity and expertise in the sector and foster collaboration between industry and academia.<sup>37</sup> The roadmap envisages that by 2030, non-animal methods will be increasingly accepted by regulators, and that patient and consumer safety will be improved as a result.<sup>38</sup>

In December 2022, the Biotechnology and Biosciences Research Council (BBSRC) (which is part of the UKRI) and N3RCs announced that [they would invest £3.7 million “to develop the next generation of non-animal technologies.”](#)<sup>39</sup>

In July 2023, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) published [a position statement on research and innovation involving animals](#).<sup>40</sup> The statement endorses the 3Rs and outlines UKRI’s [commitment to the highest standards of animal welfare](#).<sup>41</sup> UKRI have also published [guidance for researchers on the use of animals in research](#).<sup>42</sup>

In response to a PQ in March 2025, the government described its commitment to phasing out animal testing and supporting alternative methods, but said this was a long-term goal:

The Government is committed to supporting the uptake and development of alternative methods to the use of animals in science.

The Labour Manifesto includes a commitment to “partner with scientists, industry, and civil society as we work towards the phasing out of animal testing”, which is a long-term goal, and will likely take many years of scientific and technical advancement and validation to reach this point. The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) is leading on the delivery of this commitment.

Our current approach is to support and fund the development and dissemination of techniques that replace, reduce and refine the use of animals in research (the 3Rs), and to ensure that the UK has a robust regulatory system for licensing animal studies and enforcing legal standards.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Innovate UK, [Non-animal technologies in the UK: a roadmap, strategy and vision](#), 10 November 2015

<sup>37</sup> Innovate UK, [Non-animal technologies in the UK: a roadmap, strategy and vision](#), 10 November 2015, p18

<sup>38</sup> Innovate UK, [Non-animal technologies in the UK: a roadmap, strategy and vision](#), 10 November 2015, p11

<sup>39</sup> UKRI press release, [BBSRC and NC3Rs invest in next generation non-animal technologies](#), 16 December 2022

<sup>40</sup> UKRI, [Position statement on research and innovation involving animals](#), 3 July 2023

<sup>41</sup> UKRI, [Involving animals in research](#), 11 July 2024

<sup>42</sup> UKRI, [Involving animals in research](#), 11 July 2024

<sup>43</sup> PQ 35212 [on: [Animal Experiments: Reviews](#)] 27 March 2025

The government also said that it would publish a strategy to support the development, validation and uptake of non-animal methods later this year:

In line with the Government's Manifesto commitment, DSIT is currently engaging with partners from sectors with interests in animal science and on a cross-Government level as to how we will take this commitment forward, including the publishing of a strategy to support the development, validation and uptake of alternative methods. The Government expects to publish this strategy later this year.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> PQ 35212 [on: [Animal Experiments: Reviews](#)] 27 March 2025



## 5

## PQs

### Animal Experiments: Dogs

Asked by: Norris, Dan

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 January 2025 to Question 24409 on Animal Experiments: Dogs, what the evidential basis is for stating that tests of procedures on dogs predict the safety of conducting the equivalent procedures on humans with up to 96% accuracy.

Answering member: Dan Jarvis | Department: Home Office

The evidential base is from an international consortium of large pharmaceutical companies, and published in the journal: [www.sciencedirect.com/journal/toxicology-and-applied-pharmacology](http://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/toxicology-and-applied-pharmacology). The specific paper provides an industry-wide translational database of animal to human outcomes and examines the concordance between humans and dogs, non-human primates and mice.

The full citation is: Monticello TM, Jones TW, Dambach DM, Potter DM, Bolt MW, Liu M, Keller DA, Hart TK, Kadambi VJ. Current nonclinical testing paradigm enables safe entry to First-In-Human clinical trials: The IQ consortium nonclinical to clinical translational database. *Toxicol Appl Pharmacol.* 2017 Nov 1;334:100-109. doi: 10.1016/j.taap.2017.09.006. Epub 2017 Sep 8. PMID: 28893587.

HC Deb 04 March 2025 | PQ 33380

### Animal Experiments: Dogs

Asked by: Duncan-Jordan, Neil

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department will undertake a review of the necessity of using dogs in regulatory testing across all sectors.

Answering member: Dan Jarvis | Department: Home Office

The Government is committed to supporting the uptake and development of alternative methods to the use of animals in science. The Labour Manifesto includes a commitment to “partner with scientists, industry, and civil society as we work towards the phasing out of animal testing”, which is a long-term goal.

The Home Office assures that, in every research proposal, animals are replaced with non-animal alternatives wherever possible, the number of animals are reduced to the minimum necessary to achieve the result sought, and that, for those animals which must be used, procedures are refined as much as possible to minimise their suffering.

Dogs are a specially protected species under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. The Home Office will only grant a project licence for a programme of work using dogs where the purpose of the programme of work specified in the licence can only be achieved by their use, or where it is not practicable to obtain other suitable animals.

HC Deb 03 March 2025 | PQ 32895

### Animal Experiments: Dogs

Asked by: Duncan-Jordan, Neil

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Annual statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, Great Britain: 2023, published on 11 September 2024, and to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, for what reason there was an increase in 'other dogs' uses between 2022 and 2023.

Answering member: Dan Jarvis | Department: Home Office

The 2023 Annual Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain, provides details of the uses of the animals. The purposes of use of the 205 'other dogs' in experimental procedures are in Table 3.2. The purposes, and numbers of dogs used, are: Basic Research (55 for Immune System, 32 Multisystemic and 47 Ethology, Animal Behaviour and Animal Biology Work), and 71 in Translational/Applied Research: Animal Diseases and Disorders. The baseline numbers of animals used will be dependent on a range of extraneous factors.

In all licensed work, the Home Office assures that the minimum number of animals are used, each of which experience the minimum level of harm in achieving the scientific outcome sought.

HC Deb 17 February 2025 | PQ 30934

### Animal Experiments: Dogs

Asked by: Norris, Dan

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's report entitled Annual Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2023, published on 11 September 2024, what type of tests comprised the procedures conducted on dogs; and what steps she is taking to (a) reduce and (b) replace the use of dogs for such tests.

Answering member: Dan Jarvis | Department: Home Office

69% of procedures of dogs in research are for the safety testing of potential new medicines to protect human health. The legal requirements for these tests are largely harmonised globally to ensure international acceptability of testing and prevent unnecessary duplication. Tests of procedures on dogs predict the safety of conducting the equivalent procedures on humans with up to 96% accuracy.

31% of procedures of dogs in research are for basic and translational research, primarily to discover and develop products to address human and animal diseases.

Research using dogs has been instrumental in the development of medications for use in treatments for cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and genetic disorders.

In March 2023 The National Centre for the 3Rs made its biggest award to date in a single investment (£1.6M) to develop a 'Virtual Dog'. The project aims to exploit advances in computational approaches and machine learning to ultimately replace their use in chronic toxicity studies.

Where dogs have to be used in science, the Regulator assures that the principles of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) are fully applied in all granted licences. These establishments are then subject to rigorous audit by Inspectors for compliance purposes.

HC Deb 23 January 2025 | PQ 24409

### Animal Experiments: Dogs

Asked by: Easton, Alex

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what happens to dogs held for research purposes by Government (a) Departments and (b) agencies once research has been completed.

Answering member: Dan Jarvis | Department: Home Office

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA) provides protections for animals in the UK that are used in scientific procedures.

For dogs used in science, the Home Office expects that every opportunity will be taken to re-home animals where it is appropriate to do so (advice note available at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-research-technical-advice](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-research-technical-advice)).

HC Deb 21 November 2024 | PQ 14429

### Animal Experiments

Asked by: Champion, Sarah

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 October 2024 to Question 6246 on Animal Experiments, what harms were experienced by dogs used in research on muscular dystrophy; and how much funding is being provided for human-specific research into that condition.

Answering member: Dan Jarvis | Department: Home Office

The Home Office assigns severity classification to protocols in accordance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (as amended) which is published at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/14/contents>.

The classification takes account of the highest severity likely to be experienced by any animal used in the protocol and takes account of the pain, suffering, distress and lasting harm that an animal is likely to experience, after applying all the appropriate refinement techniques. Of the 21 dogs used for creation and breeding in research on muscular dystrophy, 15 were subject to 'Mild' severity and 6 'Moderate' severity.

The Home Office assures that, in every research proposal, animals are replaced with non-animal alternatives wherever possible, the number of animals are reduced to the minimum necessary to achieve the result sought, and that, for those animals which must be used, procedures are refined as much as possible to minimise their suffering.

The Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) is leading on plans to accelerate the development, validation and uptake of alternatives to animal testing.

HC Deb 05 November 2024 | PQ 11300

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### Useful links

Understanding Animal Research

[Dogs and scientific research](#)

Replacing Animal Research

[Legislation and regulation in the UK and Europe](#)

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

[Regulation and policy](#)

Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)

[The use of animals in pharmaceutical research](#)

PETA UK

19 December 2024

[Report Reveals Neglect of Animals Used for Experimentation](#)

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