

Animal Research at the University of Sussex Annual statement 2020

Please note that the statistics for the use of animals in research in the period ~~2019~~ can be found on pages 4 and 5 below

Animal research is currently a vital component of research into diseases and conditions such as cancer, infection, cardiovascular and neurological disorders, and into fundamental biological processes. Animal research is also a significant contributor to the understanding and treatment of major animal and human health problems. While alternative methods are increasingly enabling researchers to replace many studies involving animals, some animal use must continue for further advances to be made, but only after weighing the potential benefits of the research against the harm to the animals concerned. Where the use of animals can be justified, ensuring good care and welfare of those animals used in scientific research is critically important.

The University of Sussex is committed to meeting all external ethical and regulatory requirements.

We are committed to replacing animal experiments where possible, reduction and refinement (the 3Rs).

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carefully consider how we will detect behavioural and physical signs of suffering, agree on how often animals will be monitored, and what limits we can place on suffering to ensure that the scientific question can be answered without causing avoidable pain or distress. We consider what appropriate environmental conditions and enrichment, such as litter, nesting material, nest boxes, forage feed, space and chew blocks, should be in place so the animals are able to display normal behaviours including social behaviour and exercise. This is important for good science as well as good animal welfare.

Appropriate action is always taken if the suffering of animals is found to be approaching the predefined limits that are in place for each experimental procedure or genetically-altered strain; for example,

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to carry out defined procedures on the named species, such as injections, surgery, blood sampling or

Total number of animals by severity classification

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sub Threshold	5922	4149	3794	4060	6157
Mild	5547	7879	10561	13615	7872
Moderate	378	1017	1125	548	651
Severe	66	313	330	291	315
Non-recovery	161	60	115	301	4533