



The Kennedy Trust for Rheumatology Research

Policy on the Use of Animals in Research

Version Control

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The Kennedy Trust for Rheumatology Research

Policy on the Use of Animals in Research

The Trust supports the principle of using animals when it is necessary to better understand health conditions and diseases and to develop new and better treatments and that animals should only be used when there are no alternatives.

The Trust endorses the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) statement on the use of animals in medical research (<https://www.amrc.org.uk/position-statement-on-the-use-of-animals-in-research>) and expects our funded researchers to adhere to the cross-funder guidance produced by the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) outlined in *Responsibility for the use of animals in bioscience research* (<https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility-use-animals-bioscience-research>).

We will fund research involving animals only where we are satisfied that:

- The study design is scientifically robust and the animal model is appropriate and relevant to the research question being addressed
- There are no feasible alternatives
- All reasonable efforts have been made to address the following principles:
 1. Replacing with non-animal models and tools where possible
 2. Reducing the number of animals used to as few as possible, whilst still maintaining appropriately designed and analysed animal experiments that are robust and reproducible
 3. Refining the experimental methods to minimise suffering and improve welfare standards, including exploiting the latest in vivo technologies
- All animal work will be done in strict compliance with local ethics committee requirements (in the UK, the Animal Welfare Ethical Review Board), sector standards and applicable law including, in the UK, the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, as amended. The highest standards of animal care are to be applied, in line with Home Office regulations and the NC3Rs guidance documents referred to above
- Welfare standards are consistent with the principles of UK legislation and that the guidance documents set out above are applied and maintained, even where the funded research is to be performed outside the UK

Grant Application Form: Additional section under 'Justification for Resources Requested'

Use of Animals

Please note that these questions are mandatory for all applications for funding. Applications may be referred to the NC3Rs for review. Where animal work is sub-contracted, these questions must be completed by the organisation conducting the animal studies.

1. Does your project involve the use of animals? Including any species of animal who will be impacted by:

- Procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 (ASPA) YES/NO
- Procedures under the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1966 (VSA) YES/NO
- The use of animal tissue YES/NO
- Any other use, involvement, or impact YES/NO

2. (If yes to any in Q1) Have the following necessary approvals been given by:

- a. The Home Office (in relation to personal, project and establishment licences)? YES/NO/NOT REQUIRED
- b. Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body? YES/NO/NOT REQUIRED

3. (If yes to any in Q1) Does your project involve the use of animals or animal tissue outside the UK? YES/NO

- a. If yes, please provide describe and evidence how the research will be conducted in accordance with welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation. (no more than 250 words)
- b. If yes, will the expectations set out in 'Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research be applied and maintained? YES/NO

For projects which do not involve the use of animals, questions stop here.

4. Why is the use of animals both necessary and justified; are there any other possible approaches and what consideration has been given to these? (no more than 250 words)

5. Describe approaches you will take in your proposed work to replace or reduce the use of animals. (no more than 250 words)

6. What species of animal will your proposal involve? List all below, including those not protected under UK law.

7. Why is the species/model to be used the most appropriate? (no more than 250 words)

8. Will genetically modified animals be used? YES/NO If yes, provide details below. (no more than 250 words)

9. If your project involves the use of animals, what would be the maximum severity of the procedures? MILD/MODERATE/SEVERE/NON-RECOVERY

10. Please provide details of the mild, moderate, severe, or non-recovery procedures (no more than 250 words)

11. Describe the experimental procedures involved, highlight any adverse effects the animals may experience and how these have been refined to minimise the risk of disturbance, pain, distress, or lasting harm to the animals.

Where your proposal includes experiments on living animals, we recommend that you refer to the Experimental Design Assistant (EDA). A copy of the EDA report may be used to present answers to the below questions in a standardised format. Note that an EDA report may only contain one experiment, you should select the experiment which uses the largest number of animals, or a typical experiment from your proposal as a representative example.

12. How have you refined the housing and care of the animals to maximise welfare and minimise the pain, suffering and distress they experience? (no more than 250 words)

13. Please describe the number of animals to be used per experiment and how the sample size was calculated showing power calculations and including justification for the effect size chosen. Include what outcome measure was used to determine this sample size. Consider any risks associated with not achieving the sample size required. If power calculations are not appropriate, justify why and provide a principled explanation of the choice of sample size. (no more than 250 words).

14. Please describe the sex distribution of animals to be used per experiment. If the proposed study is not using both sexes, provide a justification. (no more than 250 words)

15. Please describe experimental design measures to reduce subjective bias including masking (blinding), randomisation and inclusion and exclusion criteria. (no more than 250 words)