

“THE INCREASED ANIMAL USE IN 2008 DOES NOT MEAN THAT EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE 3Rs ARE FAILING. RATHER, IT REFLECTS NEW RESEARCH TRENDS, INCREASED INVESTMENT, AND CHANGES IN REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.” DR VICKY ROBINSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE THREE Rs. 2009

ABOUT US

Understanding Animal Research aims to achieve understanding and acceptance of the need for humane animal research in the UK, by maintaining and building informed public support and a favourable policy climate for animal research.

The information provided by Understanding Animal Research is based on thorough research and understanding of the facts, historical and scientific.

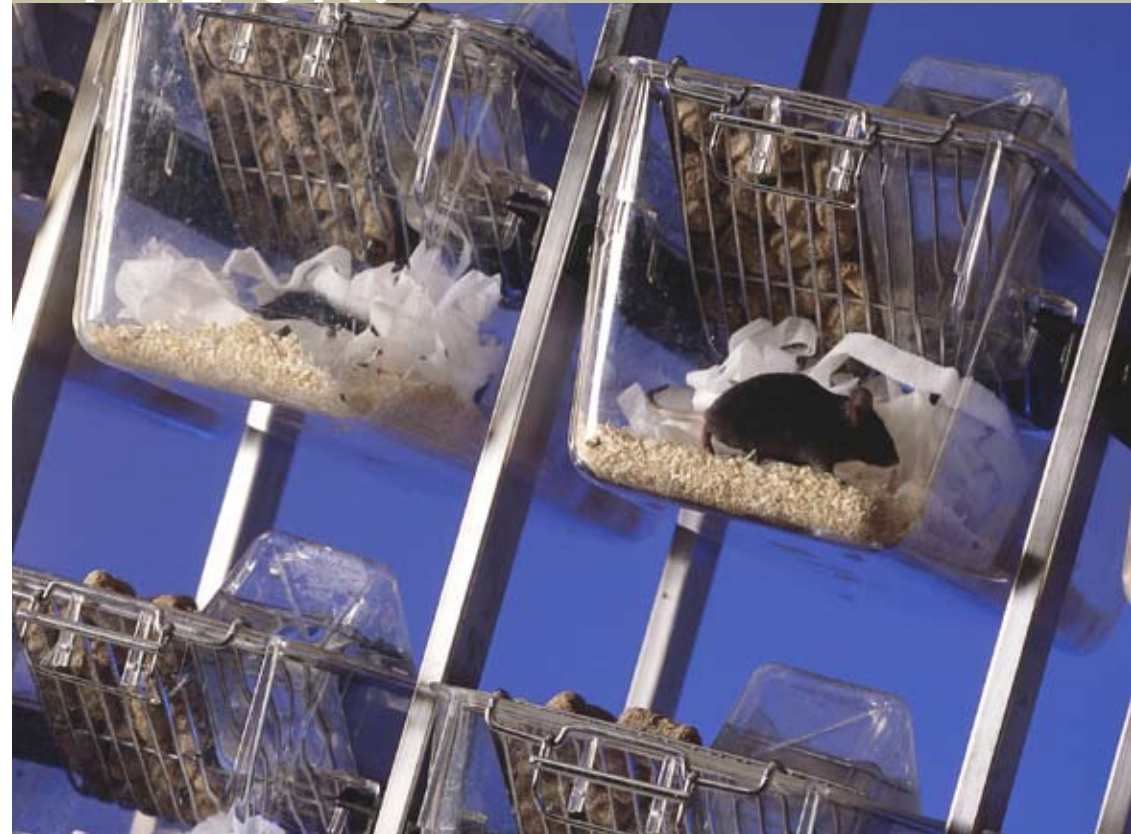
Understanding Animal Research seeks to engage with and inform many sectors to bring about its vision. Key stakeholders include members of the public, the media, policy makers, schools and the scientific research community.

ALSO AVAILABLE IN THIS SERIES:

- Why do we use animals in medical research?
- Animal research has benefits for us all - and for animals too
- From test tube to patient: the making of a medicine
- How is animal research regulated?
- Animal welfare and the three Rs: replacement, refinement and reduction

Please tell us what you think of this leaflet by completing our short survey at: www.UnderstandingAnimalResearch.org.uk/tell_us

HOW MUCH ANIMAL RESEARCH IS DONE IN THE UK?



“MONKEYS ARE ONLY USED WHERE THEY ARE THE ONLY SPECIES SUITABLE TO ACHIEVE THE SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVE” PROFESSOR ROGER LEMON, UCL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY, 2010

UK ANIMAL RESEARCH IN CONTEXT

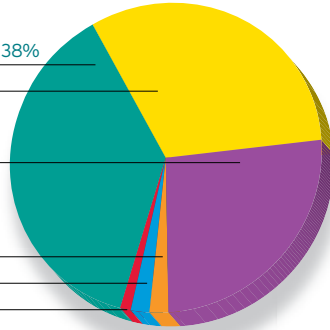
Although animal studies account for only a very small part of all medical research, animals do need to be used in certain situations. UK law says that animals must never be used when there is an alternative, but regulations also make sure that no new medicine may be trialled in humans until it has been thoroughly tested in other ways, including safety testing in animals.

But how many animals are used, and for what? Which species are involved? This leaflet uses the official figures to provide a precise snapshot of the extent of animal research in the UK.

HOW ARE ANIMALS USED IN RESEARCH AND TESTING?

Animals are used in six main areas of research and testing. Government figures for 2008 show the proportion of animals used in the following areas:

- Breeding of laboratory animals (mostly for research and developing new treatments) 38%
- Fundamental biological and medical research 32%
- Developing new treatments for diseases or ways of preventing disease 26%
- Safety testing of non-medical products or ingredients for use in the home, agriculture or industry (no cosmetics or toiletries have been tested on animals in the UK since 1998) 2%
- Developing new methods of diagnosis < 2%
- Education & training < 1%



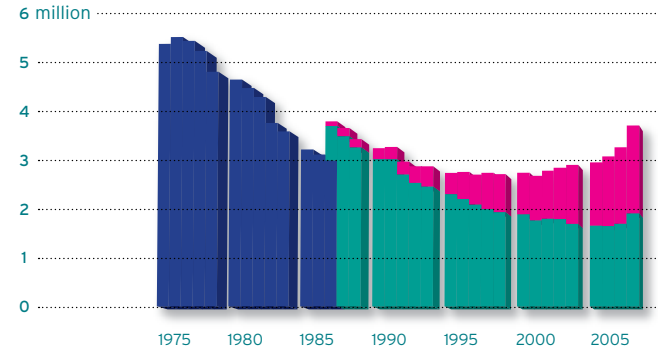
HOW MUCH ANIMAL RESEARCH IN THE UK?

3,656,080 scientific procedures used animals in 2008. In some strictly controlled situations animals were used in more than one procedure, so slightly fewer animals were used than is reflected in the number of procedures.

The number of animals used has almost halved over the last 30 years, largely due to scientific advances, better animal welfare and stricter controls; but there has been an gradual rise over the last decade. Most of this is accounted for by animals - mostly mice - used in breeding programmes to develop better understanding of genes and models of disease.

To put the figures into perspective, although the number of animal procedures increased by one million (over a third) in the decade to 2008, UK expenditure on bioscience and medical research more than doubled in real terms over the same period.

HOW MUCH ANIMAL RESEARCH IS DONE IN THE UK?



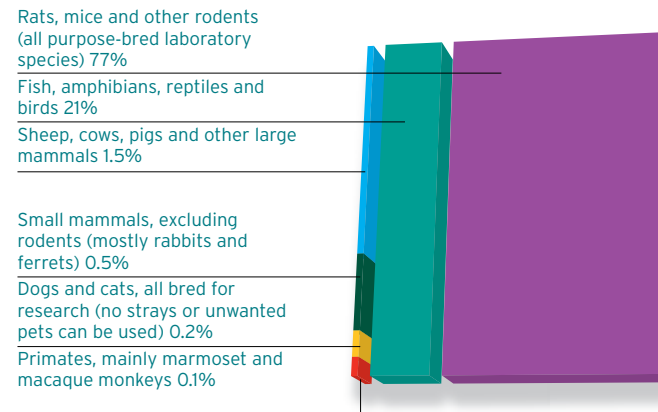
ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS IN THE UK 1975-2008

- Animal experiments
- Procedures (normal animals)
- Procedures (animals with genetic modifications or harmful mutations)

WHAT TYPES OF ANIMAL ARE USED IN RESEARCH?

UK law protects vertebrate species such as mammals, fish and birds, and it is the number of such animals used in research that is counted by the Government each year. Invertebrates such as fruit flies and worms are also used in large numbers, but are not protected by the law or counted.

The figures relating to procedures on animals in Great Britain in 2008 are:



Chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-utans have not been used in UK medical research for over 25 years. Smaller primates are used for research into very serious conditions such as AIDS and Alzheimer's disease, and in important basic research.

WHICH SPECIES ARE USED, AND WHY

As you can see from the official figures in this leaflet, over three-quarters of animals used in research are mice, rats or other rodents. Dogs and cats are used for less than 0.2% of all research - although dogs are important for the study of the heart, lungs and blood vessels and cats for researching hearing and brain function. Both are of course also important for understanding and treating illnesses in the species themselves.

INTERNATIONAL ESTIMATES

It is difficult to estimate the number of animals used in research worldwide every year. However, we do know that the major research centres are the USA (about 20 million procedures), the EU including the UK (about 12 million), Japan (5 million), Canada (2 million), Switzerland (1 million) and Australia (under 1 million). If, at a generous estimate, there are 10 million procedures carried out elsewhere in the world, the total worldwide number is unlikely to exceed 60 million procedures per year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

See also our web pages at http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/animal_numbers. The annual *Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals* reports are available as free downloads from the Home Office website at <http://scienceandresearch.homeoffice.gov.uk/animal-research/publications-and-reference/statistics/>