Animal welfare

Animal experimentation is an important part of our research and drug safety activities at LEO Pharma. It plays an invaluable role in assessing the potential and safety of a new drug candidate. This way we are able to reveal any harmful effects before a potential treatment is tested in humans.

However, animal experimentation raises continuous ethical questions. This position describes the overall principles for the use of animals for scientific purposes at LEO Pharma.

COMPLIANCE WITH HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS
At LEO Pharma, we aim to ethically balance benefits to patients against harm to animals used in research, and we deploy a science-based approach while ensuring compliance with high animal welfare standards.

As a minimum requirement, all animal experimentation, housing and care performed both internally or through third parties must at least be in compliance with the standards set by EU legislation, regardless of where the use of animals is taking place.

We audit third parties such as contract research organisations, academia, and other partners involved in or performing animal experiments on behalf of LEO Pharma. We do this to ensure compliance with LEO Pharma's animal welfare standards. Compliance with these standards is a prerequisite for collaboration.

FOCUS ON THE 3RS
Whenever animal experimentation as well as housing and care are required, we must proactively work to develop and implement activities in relation to the following principles:

1. Replacement - the use of non-animal methods: Replacement involves the use of methods that avoid or replace the use of animals in an area where they would otherwise have been used. Where permitted by local law and regulations, we shall prefer the development and use of alternative methods that do not involve the use of animals, but can provide equivalent and valid scientific data.

2. Reduction – the use of fewer animals: Reduction includes the use of methods that minimise animal use and enable researchers to obtain comparable levels of information from fewer animals or more information from the same number of animals.

3. Refinement – the initiatives which minimise actual or potential pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm and/or improve animal welfare: Refinement applies to the lifetime experience of the animal. Minimisation or avoidance of pain, distress, and discomfort of the animal before, during, and after a procedure must be sought. We must always treat experimental animals with respect and ensure their proper care to enhance the animals' welfare.