

Implementing the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research



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Understanding Animal Research

- Merger of Research Defence Society and Coalition for Medical Progress – January 2009
- More than 100 member organisations:
 - University departments, learned societies, animal technologists, lab animal vets, medical research charities, pharma industry, research funders, patient groups, breeders, contract research organisations
- 10 employees



The Concordat

- 1. We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research**
 - 2. We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our research using animals**
 - 3. We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research using animals**
 - 4. We will report on progress annually and share our experiences**
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Why do we need to be open?



Openness vs. Security?



The image is a screenshot of a BBC News Leicester webpage. At the top, there is a red navigation bar with the BBC logo and links for News, Sport, Weather, iPlayer, TV, and Radio. Below this is a white header with 'NEWS LEICESTER' and a sub-navigation bar with links for Home, World, UK, England, N. Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Business, Politics, Health, Education, and Sci/Env. The main headline reads 'University of Leicester animal research centre opens'. Below the headline is a video player showing a man in a blue lab coat and hairnet speaking in a laboratory setting. The video player has a progress bar at 00:51 and a total duration of 01:50. Below the video, the text reads: '1 October 2012 Last updated at 20:34'. The article text states: 'Staff at a new animal research centre in Leicester say they want to be open about the work they do. Bosses from the University of Leicester's £16m Central Research Facility said they respected the views of those opposed to experiments on animals but said it was important the public understood the benefits of using animals in research.'

Robust responses work

Air France robustly defended its engagement in what it claimed was a "highly supervised activity", saying it was vital to research and medicine in France and throughout Europe.

Air France claimed that the use of primates was vital for research in many medical areas, including diseases of the central nervous system, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, depression, addiction to alcohol, and infectious diseases such as HIV, malaria and hepatitis C.

The airline said it complied with regulations and had "strict standards in terms of comfort and well-being to ensure animals [had] optimal conditions of transport". The airline had received numerous letters of support from various public or private research institutes, its statement said.

Four commitments

1. We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research

Four commitments

2. We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our research using animals



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Animal research

The University of Oxford is one of the world's leading centres for biomedical research. It has consistently been at the forefront of innovative and life-saving science. Oxford researchers today study pressing health problems like cancer, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, muscular dystrophy, autism, depression, and very many more diseases that cause suffering and death.



ANIMAL RESEARCH

[Research using animals: an overview](#)

[Medical research at Oxford](#)

[The Biomedical Sciences Building](#)

[Animal welfare](#)

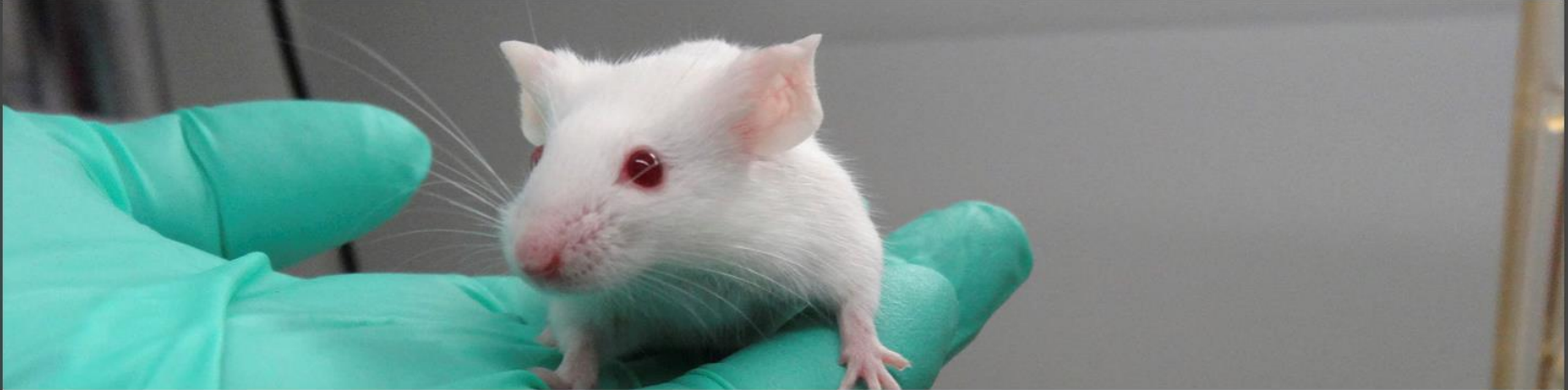
[Research case studies](#)

[UK regulations on research using animals](#)

[Legal protection](#)

[University Policy on the Use of Animals in Scientific Research](#)

[Further information](#)



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- > IMPACT
- > EQUALITY & DIVERSITY
- > INSTITUTE LIFE
- > ANIMAL RESEARCH
 - Animal Research Examples
 - Animal Research Frequently Asked Questions
 - Concordat on Openness in Animal Research

The need for animal research

Why animals are needed for research at the Babraham Institute

"Scientists only use animals when there is no alternative". This is a much-repeated phrase but what does it mean? Which animals? What alternatives? Why can't these replace all animal research? What do we find out using animals and why do we need to know this?

Babraham Institute scientists study fundamental processes in our cells: how they develop, survive, function, age and die. This basic biology underpins future medical advances, just as past research led to the treatments we receive today. The benefits will be felt in our children's and grandchildren's generations but without today's basic science there will be no foundation for tomorrow's medical research.

Mammals differ widely in size and shape but their cells and genes are broadly similar. Because of this, information from studies of mice or rats can be relevant to other mammals including humans, pets and farm animals.

Here are some examples of what we have learned from animal research at Babraham.

Links

[UNDERSTANDING ANIMAL RESEARCH](#)

Case Studies

[ANIMAL RESEARCH](#)

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The amazing moment scientists restore movement to paralysed hand

Researchers connect brain and spinal cord of macaque monkey to a computer to stimulate the animals nerves and restore function to its temporarily paralysed hand



Find out more >

Vodafone Power to you

The screenshot shows a laboratory setting where a macaque monkey's hand is being held. A red laser pointer is directed at the hand. A graph overlay on the right side of the video displays the following data:

- Spikes: A series of vertical bars representing neural activity.
- Stimul: A horizontal line indicating the duration of stimulation.
- Flexor Digitorum Profundus: A label for the muscle being studied.
- Displacement: A horizontal line indicating the movement of the hand.

At the bottom of the video frame, the text "Stimulation OFF" is visible.

Four commitments

3. We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research using animals



Four commitments

4. We will report on progress annually and share our experiences

Celebrating openness



Kite mark



Support for Concordat signatories

- Visits
- Training sessions
 - media training
 - presentation training
 - school visit training
- Openness Awards

Thank you – questions?

