

Position Statement on Animal Research - Ciências ULisboa

The Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (Ciências ULisboa; FCUL) is a signatory of the [Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Portugal](#). This is an initiative supported by the scientific community in collaboration with the [European Animal Research Association](#) (EARA) to promote openness and transparency about the use of animals in biomedical research across the country.

Animal research plays an essential role in the knowledge of the biological mechanisms that are involved in diseases and in the development of treatments and new therapeutics. Without the use of animals in the biomedical research most of the medicines, antibiotics, vaccines and surgical techniques that are applied in human and veterinary medicine would not exist.

A part of the scientific work developed at Ciências ULisboa contributes to the improvement of the biomedical field thanks to the use of animals in research. Our scientific projects involve the use of several animal models, ranging from wildlife species of fish, amphibians and mammals to laboratory breeds of mice. The scientific goals of our projects are aimed at understanding how wild animals behave and adapt to their natural environment and studying their physiology and development, including the approach of some disease models.

The welfare of animals used in research is a fundamental issue and the research carried on here strictly respects the Portuguese (Decree-Law no. 113/2013 of the 7th of August) and European regulations (Directive 2010/63/EU) that rule the use of animals in research.

The humane use of animals in the research performed at our institution complies with legal standards and is reviewed by ethics committee and animal welfare body which promote the principles of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement). There is no research project that requires the use of animals that begins without the necessary animal welfare and ethical evaluation and final authorization by the competent authority. It is also ensured that both the animal care personnel and the researchers involved in experimentation have the necessary training and knowledge to perform research with animals.