



## **STATEMENT ON RESEARCH INVOLVING ANIMALS**

The College's mission involves a strategic aim to promote and sustain a culture and environment for high quality research and teaching. Many areas of the College are engaged in research at a high level. Some of this research involves animals. This is essential for the purposes of advancements in science and also to pass on knowledge to students.

The College is committed to the highest ethical, humane and welfare standards relating to the use of animals in research. Work in this area is overseen by the College's Animal Ethical Review Committee, which consists of senior members of the College, lay members and an external Chairperson

This Committee and those responsible for the conduct of research are committed to finding ways to reduce the numbers of animals used in research. This is also actively encouraged by the Home Office who authorise all regulated procedures.

There are currently not enough adequate alternatives that can reproduce the complex biological characteristics of man and animals. Any studies of wild animals in their natural environments will always require the involvement of the animals themselves.

Considerable amounts of legislation cover the use in the UK of animals in research. The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 governs all regulated procedures on live animals and also designates facilities for the conduct of such work. The Act requires the College Certificate Holder to appoint adequately qualified and trained personnel to assist with the implementation of the requirements of the Act. Any member of College staff conducting experiments involving animals has to undergo training, have relevant experience and be authorised by the Home Office via a licensing system.

All College applications to the Home Office for Project licences (required prior to any work being undertaken) have to be approved by our Animal Ethical Review Committee.

High standards of humane care and treatment of animals undergoing procedures are adhered to by those responsible at all times. The Home Office Inspectorate regularly inspects the facilities and our own appointed Veterinary Surgeons. The facilities are maintained in line with the guidance provided under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act.

At Queen Mary we:-

- Have eliminated the large-scale use of animals for teaching purposes. i.e. dissections in student classes
- Permit studies involving animals on the basis of well-defined scientific objectives and give careful consideration to the welfare of the animals
- Work to minimise the numbers of animals used in each experiment and aim to avoid unnecessary duplication
- Use animals that are purpose-bred and from designated supplying establishments
- Ensure that animals are transported, housed and cared for by dedicated staff and under professional supervision
- Make provision for environmental enrichment in the housing of all species.
- Have 24 hour access to qualified Veterinary Surgeons
- Provide training for all staff involved in the care and use of laboratory animals.
- Aim to have all research involving animals carried out in a humane and responsible manner.

Queen Mary will work at all times towards achieving the 3R's, Replacement, Reduction and Refinement, with respect to research requiring the use of animals.

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