UNIVERSITY OF HULL

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Request Ref: 2860

FOI Request dated **24/04/2023** as follows –

I request to know the information for the year 2022 (01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022).

1. Did your university conduct experiments on animals in the year 2022?
2. How many animals were used in experiments (species & number of each)?
3. How many animals were bred on the premises (species & number of each)?
4. What was the nature and outcome of these experiments?
5. What are the Home Office licence classifications for these experiments in terms of pain, lasting harm, etc. if classified (species & number of each)?
6. Were the animals used for medical or non-medical research?
7. Which departments of your university were or are engaged in such research?
8. How many animals were killed without being used for experiments (species & a number of each)?
9. How many animals were rehomed (species & number of each)?
10. Of those that were not re-homed, why not?
11. Does the university receive an income for performing animal research?
12. Does the university incur any costs by performing animal research?
13. Were there more non-animal research methods used than animal methods? Eg. 70% where non-animal models were used and 30% where animal models were used.
14. Which non-animal research methods are available at the university? Eg. 3D printing, human skin cells, organ-on-a-chip.

Response

1. Yes
2. 1584 Mice, 1750 Fish, 88 Rats
3. 588 mice, fish figures not available
4. Cardiovascular/lymphatic system, Immune system, Ethology, Protection of natural environment, Human cancer, Sensory organs, Evolutionary Biology
5. Mice (Mild – 127, Moderate – 777, Severe 3, Sub Threshold – 677), Rats (Mild – N/A, Moderate – 86, Severe – 2, Sub Threshold – N/A), Fish (Mild – 1584, Moderate – 165, Severe – 1, Sub Threshold – N/A)
6. Medical and non-medical research
7. Faculty Health Science and Faculty of Science and Engineering
8. How many animals were killed without being used for experiments (species & a number of each)? N/A
9. How many animals were rehomed (species & number of each)? N/A
10. Of those that were not re-homed, why not? N/A
11. No
12. Yes
13. Information not held.
14. Information not held.

Statement on Research Involving Animals

The University of Hull is committed to maintaining a thorough and objective process of ethical review that requires researchers to justify any animal involvement and maximise animal welfare. The welfare of

animals is a primary concern of the University. It therefore expects that such work is conducted to the highest standards, meeting or exceeding the legal requirements and associated guidance issued by the Home Office. All involved must undertake appropriate education, training, supervision and competency assessment before undertaking procedures with animals. The importance of our moral and legal obligations underpins our culture of care and compliance. At the University of Hull, only a small amount of our research involves animals, and we apply the same standards regardless of whether our researchers are working with animals in an aquarium, a laboratory, or involved with conservation work in the field. The University recognises that high standards of animal welfare contribute to good scientific outcomes and this policy helps ensure that new knowledge acquired will ultimately benefit mankind and, in the case of veterinary research, other animals.

Research Regulation

The University is fully committed to applying the principles of the NC3Rs initiative, which is used to improve the design and reporting of animal studies. The principles of the 3Rs should be applied - these are:

- Reduction - methods which minimise the number of animals involved.
- Refinement - methods which minimise any harm and discomfort and can improve welfare.
- Replacement - the use of methods to help avoid or replace animal involvement.

Research only occurs with animals when necessary and when there is no alternative. We are continually seeking alternative methods and techniques that will enable researchers to further their research without involving animals, for example by developing in-vitro techniques (e.g. tissue culture) and computer modelling. However, the complexity of both humans and animals cannot always be fully replicated by alternative systems, and therefore the involvement of animals cannot completely be eliminated. Where alternatives cannot be found, only the smallest possible number of animals are involved, and our scientists and care staff work hard to ensure that these animals have the highest standards of care and that the principles of the 3Rs are applied. In addition, the University has a designated veterinary surgeon that provides care and advice on the animals and their involvement.

ARRIVE Guidelines

The University of Hull fully supports and endorses the ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines. These guidelines are intended to improve the design, analysis and standards of reporting research using animals by maximising the information published and minimising unnecessary studies. The ARRIVE guidelines are actively promoted by the AWERB for use by licence applicants, during training courses and within research group seminars.