

Research Ethics Procedure for work carried out with Animals

Introduction

Under the University's Policy of Research Ethics, any research conducted by staff and students at Wrexham University which involves animals or their tissue must obtain ethical approval before the research commences. In the UK, the Animals Scientific Procedures Act 1986 (ASPA) regulates any experimentation or scientific procedure on a protected animal which may have an effect of causing the animal pain, suffering, distress, or lasting harm. Three licences are required by ASPA before any work with animals regulated under the act can commence and an Institutional Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWREB) must be in place; the three Home Office licences required are as followed:

- personal licence for each person carrying out procedures on animals
- project licence for the programme of work
- establishment licence for the place at which the work is carried out

It is an offence under ASPA to carry out regulated procedures on a protected animal unless authorised by a personal licence, a project licence, and an establishment licence.

Wrexham University does not hold an establishment licence or have an AWREB in place; the majority of research on animals performed by our researchers and students involves observations in their natural environment. This procedure covers the ethical approval process and research principles for research conducted with Animals that are not covered by Home Office legislation.

Definition

Under ASPA, protected animals are defined as all living vertebrates, other than humans, and any living cephalopod. Fish and amphibia are protected once they can feed independently and cephalopods at the point when they hatch. Embryonic and foetal forms of mammals, birds and reptiles are protected during the last third of their gestation or incubation period.

Review Process

All applications for research ethics approval must be submitted through the Wrexham Research Ethics System.

Scope

The University's Research Ethics Policy and this procedure apply with equal force to projects undertaken by staff or students of the University in any location, including joint work with third-party organisations. Research ethics approval is required for any research involving:

- Any research involving animals, taking place outside the UK
- Any research involving animal tissue
- Any vertebrate or cephalopod in the UK below the threshold required for licensed work (i.e. observational studies)

Principles

Wrexham University is committed to the [NC3Rs](#) principles in all its research involving animals.

Replacement

Avoiding or replacing the use of animals - accelerating the development and use of predictive and robust models and tools, based on the latest science and technologies, to address important scientific questions without the use of animals.

Reduction

Minimising the number of animals used - appropriately designed and analysed animal experiments that are robust and reproducible, and truly add to the knowledge base.

Refinement

Minimising the pain, distress, or lasting harm of animals - advancing research on animal welfare by exploiting the latest in vivo technologies and by improving understanding of the impact of welfare on scientific outcomes.

Contacts

All queries relating to this procedure should be directed to the Research Office - rescadmin@glyndwr.ac.uk