**THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**

**Research**

Involved in a wide variety of medical and veterinary research investigating conditions that impact human and animal health across the world. These include diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer’s disease, cancer and heart disease, as well as investigations in avian influenza and E. coli in farm animals.

In addition, they undertake fundamental biological research to increase our understanding of the normal functioning of the body, studying areas such as bone strength and immune function. The use of animals is a vital part of our research. Some studies can only be undertaken in a whole animal, for example, when developing potential new medicines for diseases such as cancer and heart disease, or investigating how genetic mutations affect multiple organs and processes within the body.

In 2021, the University carried out 172,100 scientific procedures involving animals. The vast majority of these involved rodents, predominantly mice and rats (69.6%), and fish (26.4%).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Species | Number | Percentage |
| Rodents | 119,763 | 69.6% |
| Fish | 45,462 | 26.4% |
| Birds | 6,132 | 3.6% |
| Agricultural species (cattle, sheep, pigs) | 558 | 0.3% |
| Animals monitored in the wild (sheep, deer) | 185 | 0.1% |

These figures are calculated each year based on data from annual returns that are prepared for the Home Office by every Project Licence holder.

In 2021, the University carried out 172,100 regulated scientific procedures involving animals. The actual severities of these procedures are displayed in the table below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species | Non-recovery | Sub-threshold | Mild | Moderate | Severe | Total |
| Rodents | 2,585  (2.2%) | 75,262  (62.8%) | 21,936  (18.3%) | 17,499  (14.6%) | 2,481  (2.1%) | 119,763 |
| Fish | 31  (0.01%) | 40,136  (88.3%) | 4,749  (10.4%) | 327  (0.7%) | 219  (0.5%) | 45,462 |
| Birds | 0 | 1,762  (28.7%) | 4,333  (70.7%) | 34  (0.06%) | 3  (0.05%) | 6,132 |
| Agricultural species  (cattle,sheep,pigs) | 125  (22.4%) | 30  (5.4%) | 310  (55.6%) | 89  (15.9%) | 4  (0.7%) | 558 |
| Animals monitored in the wild (sheep,deer,red squirrel, golden eagle | 0 | 0 | 185  (100)% | 0 | 0 | 185 |
| Total  Percentage | 2,741  1.6% | 117,190  68,1% | 31,513  18.3% | 17,949  10.4% | 2,707  1.6% | 172,100  100% |