**DURHAM UNIVERSITY**

**Reasons given why they undertake research involving animals.**

**Research carried out**

Alzheimer’s, cataract, cancer, stroke, diabetes and more.

As well as conventional animals, Durham University houses some transgenic mice and fish - meaning, for example, they have been genetically modified to carry a ‘marker’ gene so that this gene can be studied more closely by scientists and possibly reduce the number of animals needed.

Some animals have been bred selectively to express certain characteristics such as immune deficiencies, which allow the implantation of cells from other species without rejection, which is useful in studies of diseases such as cancer.

The animals are used in procedures which aim to find out more about the interactions of different parts of the body, knowledge which can, in the long term, be applied in the development and discovery of new medical treatments for debilitating conditions such as stroke, epilepsy, Alzheimer’s Disease, heart attack and eye disease. For example, scientists harvest the eggs of toads to study how cells are made and how this process could be inhibited by drugs with application in the treatment of cancer.

Animals used in laboratory studies involving scientific procedures are humanely euthanised and numbers are recorded in accordance with Home Office guidelines. A variety of tissues are retained to carry out further laboratory-based work

Statistics

Procedures involving animals licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA) during the period 1 January to 31 December 2021:

| Species | No. Of Procedures |
| --- | --- |
| Rabbit | 61 |
| Mouse | 118 |
| Rat | 118 |

A breakdown by species of the number of procedures classified as sub-threshold, mild, moderate, severe or non-recovery according to the Home Office’s classification system:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species | Sub-threshold | Mild | Moderate | Severe | Non recovery |
| Rabbit | 0 | 61 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mouse | 43 | 53 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| Rat | 0 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Animal testing brought close to home - [March 1, 2008](https://www.palatinate.org.uk/lobbyists-and-labs-animal-testing-brought-close-to-home/)

Durham University is tested on animals. Mice, rats, rabbits, fish and frogs are routinely experimented on in Durham labs, in the name of progress. We are assured that procedures involving the use of live animals are So who is this committee? What you may not be aware of is that the appointments of Chair and Vice-Chair of this committee are made “in consultation” with our own Vice-Chancellor Chris Higgins (below), Director of the Medical Research Council’s Clinical Sciences Centre, and ardent supporter of the pro-vivisection lobby.

Most decisions to be made by the Ethics Committee are delegated to sub-committees, which in turn are tied to the individual faculties – and the minutes of these proceedings are not made available to the public. Perhaps it’s not so transparent after all.

Not only is our money being used for many of these experiments but we are also being deceived into believing that they are necessary: “Many of the world’s major medical breakthroughs have been thanks to many years of scientific work carried out with animals which share many genes and diseases with humans”, says Higgins, on behalf of the University. “Animal testing is usually the only option for testing treatments are safe before progressing to clinical trials in humans.”