

# ANIMAL RESEARCH POLICY



The Bone Cancer Research Trust recognizes that in order to beat primary bone cancer, we must invest in a variety of research, including cell and tissue experiments, developing computer models and animal research.

We do not take the decision to fund animal research lightly and will only fund studies that use animals in the UK under the following conditions:

- Compliance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) [Act 1986](#) amended 2012, [Home Office regulations](#) (updated 2024) and any related guidance and codes of practice.
- Approval from the local animal welfare and ethical review body.
- Independent peer review of the study to ensure high quality research and appropriate animal use.
- No suitable non animal alternative exists, and the study has addressed the 3Rs.

## The **3Rs** of animal research funding are:

- **Replacement:** using alternative techniques or avoiding the use of animals altogether.
- **Reduction:** using as few animals as possible by seeking ways to find out information from fewer animals or more information from the same number of animals.
- **Refinement:** improving animal welfare through housing, care improving the design of and way in which experiments are carried out to minimise discomfort.

Any researcher planning to use animals in their research must use the 3Rs to minimise the discomfort animals experience.

Researchers work hard to find alternatives and, where there are none, they use the smallest number of animals possible, ensuring that these are looked after well and do not feel any preventable discomfort.

If research is conducted outside the UK, the Bone Cancer Research Trust expects all UK standards, as well as local ethical and legislation requirements to be adhered to.

We expect researchers to:

- Ensure good quality reliable research is produced by maintaining excellent [health](#) and [welfare](#) standards of the experimental animals.
- Be [open](#) and [honest](#) about their research.

For more information, please contact our research team at [research@bcrt.org.uk](mailto:research@bcrt.org.uk)