UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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STATEMENT

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

The University of Birmingham places emphasis on excellence, both in teaching and in research. A key area of excellence within the University is biomedical research, which makes a vital contribution to the understanding, treatment and cure of a range of major health problems, including cancer, diabetes, rheumatic disease, heart disease and leukaemia.

The University of Birmingham conducts biomedical research using a wide variety of techniques and procedures including computer modelling, non-invasive imaging, *in vitro* techniques and ethically approved research involving volunteer humans.

The University of Birmingham uses animals in biomedical research programmes only where replacement alternatives are not available and where such work is fundamental to advances in understanding that will prevent suffering, protect and prolong both human and animal life and help preserve animals in their natural environment. Numbers are kept to the minimum, and the University of Birmingham promotes the highest standards of animal care, husbandry and welfare, under close veterinary supervision. The University of Birmingham is also committed to the development of techniques not involving animals wherever possible.

All work is carried out under licence from the Home Office after the potential benefits have been weighed against the effects on the animals concerned. All research projects are subject to rigorous scientific review, as well as ethical review by the Joint Ethics and Research Governance Committee of the University, which includes both internal and external representation.

Suggested Useful Links:
Home Office
RDS: Understanding Animal Research in Medicine
National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research
Association of Medical Research Charities
FRAME http://www.frame.org.uk

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