

Questions and Answers

Animal research versus animal testing

Question: Is animal research carried out at the University Central Lancashire and, if so, why?

Answer: Yes. The University of Central Lancashire conducts biomedical research aimed at understanding disease and developing new medicines to treat chronic and debilitating conditions like Alzheimer's disease and cancer. Some of this research requires the use of animals.

Question: Is animal testing carried out at the University of Central Lancashire?

Answer: No. We have never been involved in cosmetics testing which has been banned in the UK since 1997. We do not do lethal dose toxicity testing (so called LD50 studies) in animals.

Types of animals used in research

Question: What animals do we work with at the University of Central Lancashire?

Answer: At the University of Central Lancashire, currently all the regulated animal work we do is with small mammals (mice and rats). They are vital to finding out more about conditions that have devastating effects on people. We do not use larger animals and have no intentions of using large animals (for example cats, dogs, primates) in our regulated research.

Question: How many animals are studied in research at the University of Central Lancashire?

Answer:

- In calendar year 2017, the University used 591 animals in total.
- In calendar year 2018, the University used 877 animals in total.
- In calendar year 2019, the University used 896 animals in total.

Question: Where do the animals come from and do they suffer?

Answer: Animals used in our research are always purpose-bred and their welfare is a priority. The Home Office classifies animal research into mild, moderate and severe procedures, depending on the levels of pain and distress the animal is likely to experience. The majority of animal research conducted at the University of Central Lancashire is classed as mild (e.g. blood sample), or moderate procedures (e.g. tumour growth studies). We do not undertake any severe level procedures.

Regulation around animal research

Question: Is animal research at the University of Central Lancashire regulated?

Answer: Yes. Animal research is regulated internally by the University's Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) which comprises of academics, researchers, lay members and service staff. Further, all regulated animal research must be licensed and approved by the Home Office. Home Office inspectors visit us regularly, often unannounced, to ensure that our work meets the UK's legal and welfare standards.

Alternatives to animal research

Question: Why doesn't the University replace animals with alternatives?

Answer: No-one wants to use animals and we are working on finding ways to replace them. In fact, UK law states that we must use alternatives where they are available. We use tissue culture and computer modelling, but some properties are shown only by whole animals. For example, although vascular cells can be studied in tissue culture, the regulation of blood pressure can only be studied in whole animals.