

Policy on Animal Research

Summary

Academic Governance Committee considered the policy and commented on various versions of it between its April and November meetings. The policy was revised by SREC accordingly.

The attached paper includes the original version approved by Senate in 2002 and the latest version agreed by AGC at its November meeting.

One action required.

Recommended Action

Senate is asked to **approve** the revised policy.

Publication: Open

City, University of London Policy on Animal Research

At Senate meeting no. 202 held on 27 February 2002 the following policy was approved. This followed a recommendation from the Senior Management Executive and Ethics Committee for a formal recorded policy on animal research by staff and students at City University.

1. City University does not proscribe animal research.
2. As a matter of current practice, invasive animal research and research requiring a Home Office Licence is not conducted on University premises.
3. The University acknowledges that City University members of staff observe animals on the premises of the University, but that this research is non-invasive and does not require a Home Office Licence.
4. Where members of staff conduct animal testing which is deemed invasive or requires a Home Office Licence, it will be in collaboration with another institution/organisation.
5. When members of City University do undertake invasive animal research in collaboration with another institution/organisation such experiments will be subject to that institution's/organisation's ethical procedures. In the case of research done by staff in collaboration with another institution, a judgement must be taken as to the appropriateness of that institution's ethical procedures, and approval managed accordingly by Senate Research Ethics Committee. Documents relating to the ethical approval of the research must be submitted to City University Senate Research Ethics Committee.
6. Non-invasive research involving animals and carried out on City University premises should be subject to the University's usual ethical approval procedures.
7. Staff and students are given the opportunity to opt out of research conducted on animals.

In February 2016 AGC asked SREC to re-examine and update this policy if required

Updated policy on animal research (approved by AGC in November 2016)

1. The University does not allow any research on University premises that requires licensed approval under the 'Animals in (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012' (ASPA) (see Appendix 1)

2. Members of City, University of London may undertake research covered by the ASPA in collaboration with other institutions. On such occasions the research will be subject to that institution's ethical procedures.

Where the University is the sponsor of the research carried out at another institution or the PI's principal employer is the University, Senate Research Ethics Committee (SREC) must make a judgement of the appropriateness of that institution's ethical procedures, and approval managed accordingly. Documents showing ethical approval for the research must be submitted to SREC.

3. Members of the university may be involved in less invasive work on animals on University premises that is not subject to the ASPA (see Appendix 2 for examples). Such work must be approved by SREC and comply with the 'Animal Welfare Act 2006'.

4. The University allows research on University premises that uses animal tissue obtained from animals sacrificed outside the University by recognised institutions such as zoos and other universities. If such tissue is from endangered species, from an unlicensed source, contains potentially harmful agents (both biological and chemical), or genetically modified material, it must be considered by SREC.

5. All research involving animals, whatever its nature, carried out by members of City, University of London must consider the 3Rs;

- Replacement (use of animal cells or if possible non-animal alternatives)
- Reduction (using fewer animals)
- Refinement (minimise pain and enhance welfare throughout an animal's life)

6. Staff and students may opt out of research involving animals.

Appendix 1

The 'Animals in (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012' applies to any species of living vertebrate or cephalopod where an intervention is likely to cause the animal pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm equivalent to, or higher than, that caused by the introduction of a needle in accordance with good veterinary practice. It also applies to embryonic and foetal forms of mammals, birds and reptiles once they have reached the final third of their gestation. Larval forms of fish and amphibians are also protected once they are capable of feeding independently. Any intervention carried out at an earlier developmental stage that will involve the subsequent birth or hatching of a protected species is also within the scope of this legislation.

Appendix 2

Although City, University of London does not undertake any research on university premises that requires licensed approval under the 'Animals in (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012' (ASPA), it does carry out less invasive procedures.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the types of procedures that might be performed. It is not a list of the procedures currently performed at City, University of London, and is simply for illustrative purposes. Such work might include;

- invertebrates (apart from cephalopods);
- mammals, birds and reptiles within the first two-thirds of gestation;
- larval forms of fish and amphibians before they are capable of independent feeding;
- ringing, tagging or marking animals primarily for identification purposes if the method causes no more than momentary pain and no lasting harm;
- non-experimental practices undertaken for the purposes of recognised animal husbandry as long as they comply with other animal welfare legislation or regulations;
- the euthanasia of animals by approved (schedule 1) methods;
- the non-invasive observation of unrestrained animals, or any research intervention that is unlikely to cause the animal pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm equivalent to, or higher than, that caused by the introduction of a needle in accordance with good veterinary practice.

Chair SREC
Professor Ron Douglas