



## **ESPE Animal Research Policy**

**Based on Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.**

ESPE is dedicated to improving lives and outcomes of patients with endocrine or endocrine-related disease through high quality research to better understand, prevent and treat disease. To achieve this, many types of research methods can be used such as clinical trials, use of tissues samples, cultured cells, computer models and, when appropriate, animal models. All approaches, including research using animals, play a vital role in the medical research process.

ESPE therefore supports the principle of using animals in research when it is necessary to advance understanding or preventing endocrine disease or to develop new or better treatments, and if there are no suitable non-animal alternatives.

Research projects involving animals will therefore be eligible for funding by ESPE.

ESPE wants to be open about the animal research it funds, and will request reports from funded research that include details of the use of animals as well as proof of ethical permission in the first 6 months' report.

ESPE will only fund research using animals that complies with the law in the country where the research is conducted, both in terms of ethical permission and animal welfare.

Appropriate standards of animal welfare, including housing conditions and trained animal technicians are expected as these minimise discomfort for animals and enable researchers to get reliable results.

Research projects and animal welfare therefore need to be in line with the latest update of the Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, or equivalent national or international directives for non-EU countries. The directive sets out expectations for the responsible use of animals in research. (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2010/63>)

ESPE supports the principle of replacement, refinement and reduction of animal use (3Rs) in research (see EU directive [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/3r/alternative\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/3r/alternative_en.htm)), and will ask for consideration of 3Rs in research applications.

Grant application forms will ask for approaches to obtain ethical approval, whether the animal research facility has national accreditation, (and if not for details of adherence to legal requirements for the use of animals for research in the country where the research is conducted), for species and expected number of animals to be used, for consideration of the 3 Rs, and for agreement with ESPE's animal research policy.

Where there is any concern regarding the use of animals, including use of non-human primates, cats, dogs, equines or other animals under special protection, further expert review will be conducted to assess responsible use of animals and animal welfare as outlined in the EU directive.

1. <https://concordatopenness.org.uk/>  
<https://www.eara.eu/transparency-agreements>  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41593-022-01039-z>
2. <https://arriveguidelines.org/arrive-guidelines>
3. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2010/63>
4. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/3r/alternative\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/3r/alternative_en.htm)

#### Other useful documents

- <https://norecopa.no/prepare> 'Prepare guidelines' are useful for the planning of studies with animals.
- [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/pdf/guidance/directive/en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/pdf/guidance/directive/en.pdf) EU directive and implementation