



Ethical Point of Departure

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Ethical Point of Departure

- 1) AnimCare recognises the **moral dilemma** of using sentient animals with sensations and emotions for experimentation. At the same time, we accept that experimentation with animals is **essential** to advance biomedical sciences, ultimately reducing suffering and enhancing life and wellbeing:
 - a) In all instances sound **motivation** and **justification** for the use of animals and procedures must be provided.
 - b) The **repetition** of previously performed research experiments with animals will not be considered, unless it can be motivated to be necessary and shown to contribute to new knowledge.
- 2) The principle of the **3Rs** will be applied:
 - a) **Replace**: to replace animals with alternatives where possible
 - b) **Reduce**: to reduce the number of animals used to the minimal that will still provide scientifically verifiable answers
 - c) **Refine**: to refine experimental design and procedures (to replace animals where possible, select the optimal animal model, minimise stress to animals, reduce the number of animals used, and optimise the data obtained from experiments).
- 3) Ethical reflection will consider human / experimenter safety, animal wellbeing and environmental integrity. In this regard, the **wellbeing of animals will remain of utmost importance**, firstly by ensuring humane treatment of animals at all times, and by recognising undue stress, pain or discomfort and making relief thereof a priority above the interest of scientific / experimental interest.
- 4) All keeping, handling, and experimentation with animals must be done according to well-designed experimental protocols and with appropriate safety measures in place, in appropriate, approved, maintained and monitored **facilities** and by appropriately qualified, trained and competent **researchers** and **technicians**, under supervision of appropriately qualified and registered **professionals**.
- 5) All projects utilising animals for research or training purposes at the North-West University will stand the test of scientific integrity and **must be approved by AnimCare** or another appropriate Animal Research Ethics Committee (AREC) of the NWU.