

Wyss Center position statement on the use of animals in research

As a founding principle, all Wyss Center projects adhere to the highest ethical standards for the welfare of animals.

The three Rs are the guiding principles in animal research.

The Wyss Center upholds the guiding principles underpinning the humane use of animals in scientific research known as the three Rs.

- Replace: Non-animal alternatives are used whenever possible.
- Reduce: The numbers of animals are minimized.
- Refine: Procedures are refined to minimize discomfort, animal housing is improved and welfare maximized.

Projects involving animals

Some Wyss Center projects involve the use of animals. The use of animals is never taken lightly, and they are only used when there is no alternative method available. All Wyss Center researchers using animals in research agree to abide by the 3R principles (replace, reduce, refine). The Wyss Center also uses non-animal research methods. These include the use of cell cultures and mathematical models to augment, and where possible, replace the use of animals. In some cases, however, it is only using animals that we can develop new technologies to improve the lives of people living with neuro-disorders.

Switzerland has some of the most comprehensive [animal protection legislation](#) in the world. Regulation of animal experimentation is particularly stringent. Every animal experiment is evaluated at three levels: by the institution's director of animal experimentation, by the cantonal animal experimentation committee and finally by the federal food safety and veterinary office. The researchers must demonstrate that the benefit to society justifies the use of the animal. Each institution must name a local animal welfare office to verify that experiments on site conform to regulations.

The Wyss Center only supports animal research protocols that have been approved by Swiss, European or US ethical committees.

For more information see:

<https://swiss3rcc.org/>

<http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/>