

Coeliac UK statement on the use of animals in research

Coeliac UK funds research that is carried out to improve the understanding, diagnosis, management and cure of coeliac disease.

The nature of coeliac disease is such that invariably research involves the study of patients and human populations. The charity only supports the principle of using animals in research when it is absolutely necessary to advance understanding of health and disease. Any funding for research involving animals is only granted after rigorous peer review and is only sanctioned when there is no practicable alternative available, this being in full agreement with the [statement](#) issued by the Association of Medical Research Charities originally published January 2014 and updated September 2020.

Any use of animals in research must comply with UK law. Coeliac UK is committed to the 'three Rs' approach; to replace the use of animals with alternative techniques or avoid the use of animals altogether, to reduce the number of animals used to a minimum and to refine the way experiments are carried out to achieve improved animal welfare, ensuring regulatory requirements are met, whether carried out in the UK or overseas.

The charity maintains best practice through use of the 'three Rs' in the administration of its grant applications, rigorous reporting and peer review. We take this seriously and as a result have actively challenged the use of animals in projects where it has been proposed. Coeliac UK has funded only one project out of 26 in the last 10 years where animals were used to further our understanding of the neurological problems associated with coeliac disease and no realistic alternative was available.

In addition to funding research, the Charity provides essential support on health and diet to those struggling to live with coeliac disease, campaigns for better access to diagnosis and care and better access to food in and out of the home.