

ACCEPTANCE

When a validated method is formally recognised by a regulator. The OECD is one of the organisations helping to harmonise acceptance across the world. Some NAMs have received acceptance, but the process can take years.

ASPA 1986

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 regulates the use of protected animals in experiments in the UK. It covers experiments that cause pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm.

ASRU

The Animals in Science Regulation Unit is responsible for enforcing the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. ASRU is accountable to the UK Government's Home Office.

BASIC & APPLIED

Basic research aims to further human knowledge and understanding. It's also referred to as 'fundamental' research. Applied research aims to solve a particular problem.

FIXED CUT OFF DATE

Cruelty free cosmetic and household companies have a fixed cut off date (FCOD). This means they won't use any new ingredients that have been subject to animal testing after that date.

GENETICALLY ALTERED

Animals used in experiments have often had their genes mutated or modified. In recent years, genetically altered mice, rats, fish, fowl, sheep, and pigs have been bred in Britain.

HUMAN RELEVANT

Science that is predictive of human biology. Animal experiments lack human relevance as they often fail to translate to humans. The vast majority of drugs tested in animals fail in human trials.

IN VIVO

Techniques that are performed on a living organism. Animal experiments are in vivo techniques. In Britain, around three million experiments are carried out on animals every year.

IN SILICO

Techniques that are carried out using computer modelling or simulation. They often use large data-sets to help predict the pharmacological or toxicological effects of a substance.



THE CALL TIME ON ANIMAL TESTING GLOSSARY

We all want to see an end to animal experiments. But there's so much jargon, and it can be difficult to see through the complexity. Arm yourself with our handy glossary so that YOU can tell companies and the Government to #CallTimeOnAnimalTesting.

NON-ANIMAL METHODS

Non-animal methods (NAMs) don't involve the use of animals. Examples include organ-on-a-chip technology, organoids, and computer models. These methods have huge potential to replace animal experiments.

'PROTECTED ANIMAL'

Only vertebrates and cephalopods are covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. There's no protection for other invertebrates in labs, including sentient decapod crustaceans.

REACH

Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals regulates the use and production of chemical substances. REACH has increased the use of animals to test chemicals.

REDUCTION

The principle that the minimum number of animals should be used to answer a research question. This can also mean that animals who have been used in experiments before are re-used.

REFINEMENT

The principle that if animals are used in an experiment, their pain and suffering should be minimised, such as through improved husbandry or changes to the experiment (e.g. use of pain relief).

REPLACEMENT

The principle that animals shouldn't be used where a method that doesn't involve their use exists. Sometimes replacing vertebrates with invertebrates is considered replacement.

SECTION 24

Under Section 24 of ASPA, it's an offence to disclose info about animal experiments in most cases. It's at odds with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Despite calls for repeal, S24 is still in force.

SEVERITY

Experiments are classed as non-recovery, sub-threshold, mild, moderate or severe. Around 3% of experiments in Britain are severe and these are experiments that cause extreme pain and suffering.

SPECIESISM

Different or unfair treatment based on species. Human interests are often placed above those of other animals, even where the cost to the animal greatly outweighs any benefit to the human.

STEREOTYPY

An abnormal or repetitive behaviour that shows an animal is struggling to cope. Animals in labs often exhibit stereotypical behaviour and studies have shown this even in enriched environments.

SURPLUS ANIMALS

Animals who are bred, but never used. The number of 'surplus' animals isn't recorded in the UK, so we don't know how many additional lives are wasted in the name of animal experiments.

UK GOVERNMENT

Animals in experiments sits with the Home Office, but policy is also influenced by the Departments for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

VALIDATION

The process of evaluating toxicity tests. Contemporary methods go through this process before they achieve acceptance. Most methods involving animals have never gone through this process.

