

## **BREAST CANCER UK POLICY ON ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION**

Breast Cancer UK do not support research projects which involve animal experiments or materials derived from animal experiments. We do support the use of established cell lines derived from humans and animals.

The [3Rs principles](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs)<sup>i</sup> of Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement of the use of animals in research, are guiding principles that underpin research practices in the UK. Effectively they state that researchers should seek to replace animals with non-animal alternatives wherever possible; keep animal numbers to a minimum; and for animals which are used, keep suffering to a minimum.

Breast Cancer UK is supportive of the 3Rs principles, and in relation to its scientific funding programme, will only support research that adheres to the first of these; i.e. Replacement. The 3Rs principles provide guidelines for replacement of animal use in research, which include the use of “human volunteers, tissues and cells”. Furthermore, we do not fund projects that use materials derived from animal experiments (for example, samples from tissue banks where animal research was conducted to obtain such samples). Although we recognise this material will not involve live animal experiments, the samples will have been taken from live animals undergoing experimentation. Whilst this kind of resource is consistent with the 3Rs policy, it is not consistent with our interpretation of the concept of replacement.

Breast Cancer UK is committed to promoting and encouraging an ethical approach to scientific research. Our policy on funding research will be kept under constant review.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

The 3Rs: <http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs>

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs>