Implementing the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research

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Understanding Animal Research


- More than 100 member organisations:
  - University departments, learned societies, animal technologists, lab animal vets, medical research charities, pharma industry, research funders, patient groups, breeders, contract research organisations

- 10 employees
The Concordat

1. We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research

2. We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our research using animals

3. We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research using animals

4. We will report on progress annually and share our experiences
Why do we need to be open?
Openness vs. Security?

University of Leicester animal research centre opens

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Staff at a new animal research centre in Leicester say they want to be open about the work they do.

Bosses from the University of Leicester’s £16m Central Research Facility said they respected the views of those opposed to experiments on animals but said it was important the public understood the benefits of using animals in research.

Understanding ANIMAL RESEARCH
Air France robustly defended its engagement in what it claimed was a "highly supervised activity", saying it was vital to research and medicine in France and throughout Europe.

Air France claimed that the use of primates was vital for research in many medical areas, including diseases of the central nervous system, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, depression, addiction to alcohol, and infectious diseases such as HIV, malaria and hepatitis C.

The airline said it complied with regulations and had "strict standards in terms of comfort and well-being to ensure animals [had] optimal conditions of transport". The airline had received numerous letters of support from various public or private research institutes, its statement said.
Four commitments

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Animal research

The University of Oxford is one of the world’s leading centres for biomedical research. It has consistently been at the forefront of innovative and life-saving science. Oxford researchers today study pressing health problems like cancer, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, muscular dystrophy, autism, depression, and very many more diseases that cause suffering and death.
The need for animal research

Why animals are needed for research at the Babraham Institute

"Scientists only use animals when there is no alternative". This is a much-repeated phrase but what does it mean? Which animals? What alternatives? Why can't these replace all animal research? What do we find out using animals and why do we need to know this?

Babraham Institute scientists study fundamental processes in our cells: how they develop, survive, function, age and die. This basic biology underpins future medical advances, just as past research led to the treatments we receive today. The benefits will be felt in our children's and grandchildren's generations but without today's basic science there will be no foundation for tomorrow's medical research.

Mammals differ widely in size and shape but their cells and genes are broadly similar. Because of this, information from studies of mice or rats can be relevant to other mammals including humans, pets and farm animals.

Here are some examples of what we have learned from animal research at Babraham.
The amazing moment scientists restore movement to paralysed hand

Researchers connect brain and spinal cord of macaque monkey to a computer to stimulate the animals nerves and restore function to its temporarily paralysed hand.
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Celebrating openness
Kite mark
Support for Concordat signatories

• Visits

• Training sessions
  – media training
  – presentation training
  – school visit training

• Openness Awards
Thank you – questions?