

University Policy Statement on the Use of Animals in Research

1. The University of Essex does not proscribe animal research.
2. As a matter of current practice, invasive animal research involving animals of protected species¹ and research requiring a Home Office Licence under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012 (ASPA) is not conducted on University premises. Members of staff who conduct animal testing which is deemed invasive or requires a Home Office Licence will do so in collaboration with another institution / organisation.
3. The University acknowledges that members of staff may undertake research involving animals of protected species which is non-invasive and research involving other animals not covered by ASPA. This research does not require a Home Office Licence.
4. When members of the University undertake animal research in collaboration with another institution / organisation, such experiments will be subject to ethical procedures of that institution / organisation. In the case of research undertaken by staff in collaboration with another institution, a judgement must be taken as to the appropriateness of that institution's ethical procedures. Documents relating to the ethical approval of the research must be submitted to the University Ethics Committee for ratification prior to commencement of the research.
5. Other research involving animals carried out on the University's premises or under the auspices of the University will be subject to the University's usual ethics review procedures.
6. Staff and students are given the opportunity to opt out of research conducted on animals.

Date created: June 2011

Date reviewed: June 2018 (approved by the University Ethics Committee on 19 June 2018)

Date reviewed: June 2022 (approved by the University Ethics Committee on 21 June 2021)

Date for review: June 2024

¹ The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amended Regulations 2012 (ASPA) defines 'protected species' as any living vertebrate other than man and any invertebrate of the species *Octopus vulgaris* from the stage of its development when it becomes capable of independent feeding.