

DTU ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

The Technical University of Denmark (DTU) strives to conduct excellent research, the outcome of which must be of benefit to society. We endeavor to limit our utilization of experimental animals to a minimum, but until suitable alternatives emerge for all areas, animals remain an invaluable resource for advancement of the scientific knowledge, which is important for both animal and human life and wellbeing.

At DTU, we follow national and European legislation concerning utilization of animals for scientific purposes, and we do our best to ensure that our collaborators adhere to the same standards. All experiments including animals, which may inflict pain, stress or similar as well as animal holding facilities at DTU are subject to approval and inspection by the Animal Experiments Inspectorate.

The individual departments are responsible for ensuring that all students and employees who work with experimental animals are appropriately trained and understand their ethical obligations. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of individual departments to ensure that their guidelines are in accordance with national and European legislation.

In acknowledgement of the ethical concerns that are raised by animal experiments, DTU has formulated this animal welfare policy, which applies to the university as a whole.

As part of our commitment to ensuring animal welfare, DTU performs animal experiments only when:

- There are no comparable alternatives without the use of animals
- The scientific value of the experiment justifies the use of live animals

Furthermore, DTU is committed to the 3R principles (replacement, refinement and reduction) by:

- Always investigating whether replacement methods are available and can be used
- Designing experiments following guidelines on experimental design and statistical analyses
- Critically evaluating the utility of specific animal models where these may compromise animal welfare and seeking out alternatives wherever possible.
- Actively engaging in exchange of knowledge with regard to new practices for housing, handling and transport of animals to increase animal welfare.
- Ensuring that staff training is an ongoing process, where skills are kept updated in accordance with new initiatives to improve animal welfare.
- Ensuring that animal health is consistently and carefully monitored
- Maximizing the use of each animal by sharing tissue of animals where scientifically possible, and where this does not compromise animal welfare.
- Wherever possible ensuring enrichment of animal environment.