

Animal ethics at Lundbeck

Lundbeck is obliged by authorities to conduct studies on animals to advance safe and efficacious medicines to treat brain diseases. We only use animals for research purposes when alternative models will not provide the data necessary to evaluate treatments for brain diseases and when the benefit to patients outweigh the discomfort to the animals.

We are committed to ensure ethical treatment of animals used in laboratory settings. Our Animal Care and Use Committee oversees all experiments on animals and reviews animal models on a continuous basis using the principles of replacement, refinement, and reduction of animals (3Rs) to which we are fully committed. We work with others on the 3Rs for continuous improvements and actively support the National 3R Centre in Denmark.

We use purpose-bred animals and only use genetically modified animals when they constitute a superior model for human disease. We adhere to all applicable laws, regulations, licenses and voluntary guidelines for the use of animals in biomedical research.

We provide high animal welfare standards in relation to the housing and environmental enrichment, provide optimal nutrition, care, use, training, and socialization of the animals in our facilities. We work with registered breeders of animals to ensure high welfare standards in the breeding of and during transport of animals to our facilities.

Our laboratory animal veterinary staff are always available on site or on call to ensure animal welfare and timely treatment of ailments. All employees working with animals have appropriate and documented education (FELASA standards) and training. Our facilities, animal housing and procedures are subject to inspections by regulatory bodies. These visits are often unannounced.

Part of our research is conducted with external partners. We apply similar ethical standards to our collaborators as those applied for research on animals in our own facilities. Dedicated staff will review external collaborators to ensure animal welfare before research activities are committed.

The animals we use in our research are predominantly mice and rats, while rabbits, guinea pigs, dogs and minipigs are used more rarely. In special cases, non-human primates are the only relevant animal species. We keep the use of non-human primates (macaques and marmosets) to a minimum and only use them, if no other species are appropriate for the specific development program.